



I. POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS



A. POPULATION

The United States Census Bureau calculates population estimates for the years that fall between their ten-year census counts. According to these estimates, the population of Louisiana as of July 1, 1998 was 4,351,769. The most recent Census Bureau estimates for Louisiana's basic demographic subgroups (i.e. race, gender, and age groups) are for the state's 1997 population. The subgroup estimates are given in the following table.

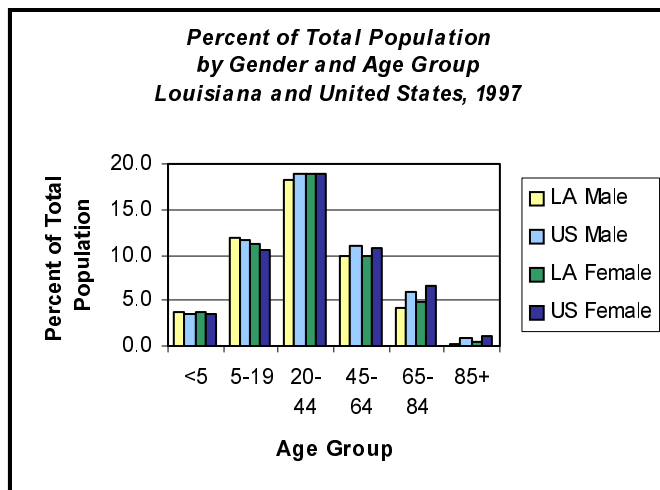
Louisiana Population Count, 1997								
Gender	Race	Age Group						Total
		<5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85+	
Male	White	92,464	306,684	537,156	319,306	142,348	10,609	1,408,567
	Black	64,007	203,200	238,327	102,368	40,536	4,088	652,526
	Other	3,381	10,071	14,856	6,223	1,508	157	36,196
Female	White	88,256	292,687	534,231	333,805	196,046	28,741	1,473,766
	Black	62,365	201,038	275,600	134,219	61,356	9,349	743,927
	Other	3,227	9,544	14,927	7,038	1,825	226	36,787
Both	Total	313,700	1,023,224	1,615,097	902,959	443,619	53,170	4,351,769

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

When these figures are compared with the Census Bureau estimates of the national population in 1997, Louisiana and the United States have very similar population distributions by gender and age group.

Percent of Total Population by Gender and Age Group Louisiana and United States, 1997								
Location	Gender	Age Group						All Ages
		<5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85+	
LA	Male	3.7	11.9	18.2	9.8	4.2	0.3	48.1
	Female	3.5	11.6	19.0	10.9	6.0	0.9	51.8
	Both	7.2	23.5	37.2	20.7	10.2	1.2	100.0
US	Male	3.7	11.1	18.9	10.0	4.8	0.4	49.0
	Female	3.5	10.5	18.8	10.7	6.5	1.0	51.0
	Both	7.2	21.6	37.7	20.7	11.3	1.4	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates



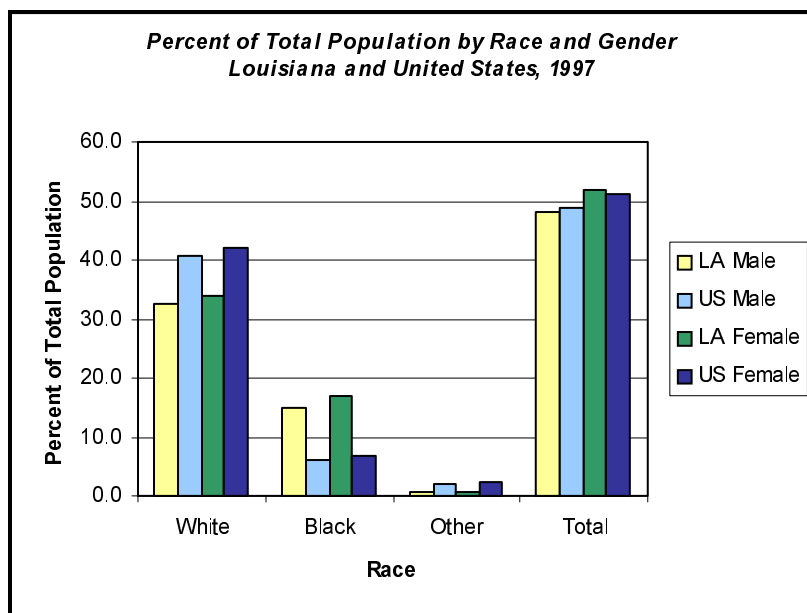
Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates



Estimates of the population distribution by race, however, show the percentage of African-Americans in Louisiana is more than twice the national average, with 32.1% in Louisiana versus 12.7% nationally. Individual parishes in Louisiana range from 5% to 67% African-American.

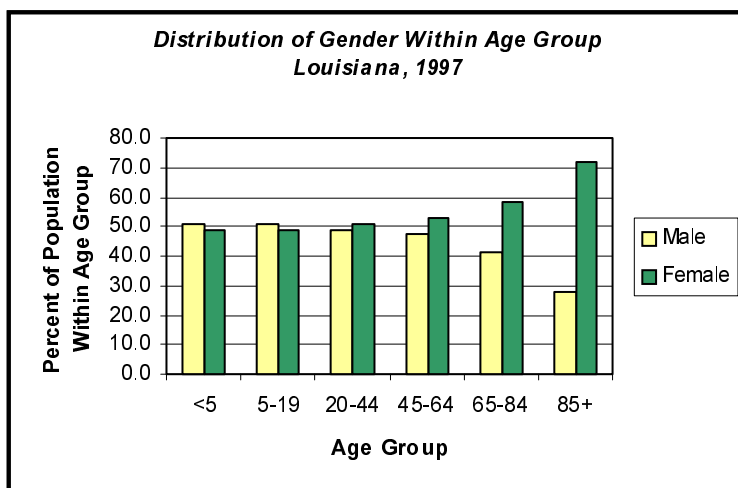
<i>Percent of Total Population by Race and Gender Louisiana and United States, 1997</i>					
Location	Gender	Race			
		White	Black	Other	Total
LA	Male	32.4	15.0	0.8	48.2
	Female	33.9	17.1	0.8	51.8
	Both	66.3	32.1	1.6	100.0
US	Male	40.7	6.0	2.2	48.9
	Female	42.0	6.7	2.4	51.1
	Both	82.7	12.7	4.6	100

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

As in the rest of the nation, advancing age brings an increase in the proportion of women to men. Louisiana's 1997 population estimates for the 45 to 64 years age group are 47% male and 53% female. The percentages change to 28% male and 72% female in the 85+ age group.

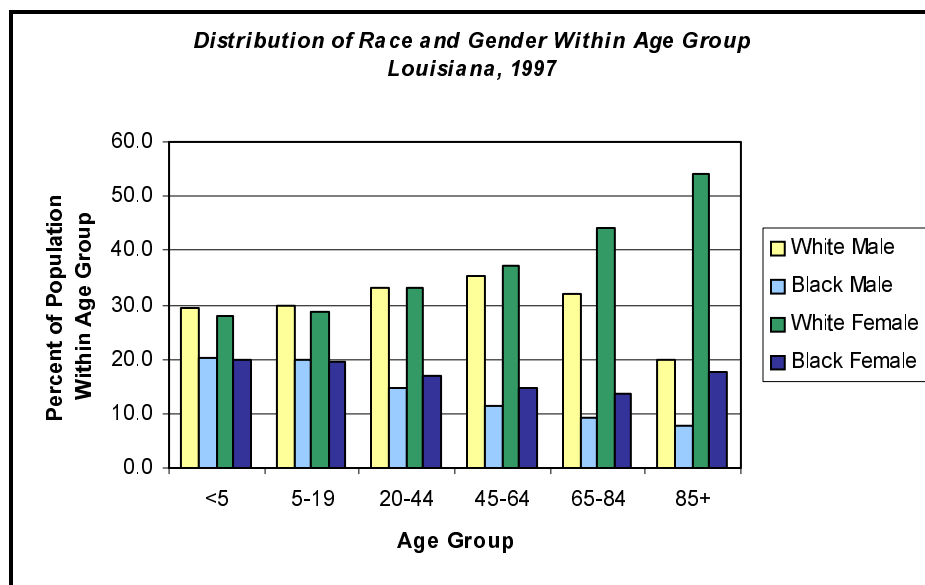


Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

Within individual age groups, the race/gender proportions change with advancing age. Prior to age 20, both white males and white females comprise approximately 29% of the population of each age group, and African-American men and women approximately 19%. By age 85+, 54% of the population are white women, 20% are white men, 18% are African-American women, and 8% are African-American men.

Percent of Race and Gender Within Age Group Louisiana, 1997							
Gender	Race/Gender	Age Group					
		<5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85+
Male	White Male	29.5	30.0	33.3	35.4	32.1	20.0
	Black Male	20.4	19.9	14.8	11.3	9.1	7.7
	Other Male	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3
	Total	51.0	50.9	49.0	47.4	41.5	28.0
Female	White Female	28.1	28.6	33.1	37.0	44.2	54.1
	Black Female	19.9	19.6	17.1	14.9	13.8	17.6
	Other Female	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.4
	Total	49.0	49.1	51.1	52.7	58.4	72.1

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates



Although 1997 estimates are the most current available for demographic subgroups in Louisiana, the United States Census Bureau has calculated parish-level population estimates for 1997. The changes in Louisiana's parish populations that occurred between the 1990 census and the 1997 estimates are given in the table below.

1997 Population Figures for Louisiana Parishes				
Parish	4/1/90 Census	7/1/97 Estimate	% Change 1990-97	7/1/97 % of State
Louisiana	4,221,826	4,351,769	3.1	100.0
Acadia	55,882	57,691	3.2	1.3
Allen	21,226	23,908	12.6	0.5
Ascension	58,214	69,978	20.2	1.6
Assumption	22,753	22,863	0.5	0.5
Avoyelles	39,159	40,791	4.2	0.9
Beauregard	30,083	31,799	5.7	0.7
Bienville	16,201	15,827	-2.3	0.4
Bossier	86,088	92,750	7.7	2.1
Caddo	248,253	243,391	-2.0	5.6
Calcasieu	168,134	178,874	6.4	4.1
Caldwell	9,806	10,351	5.6	0.2
Cameron	9,260	9,012	-2.7	0.2
Catahoula	11,065	11,063	0.0	0.3
Claiborne	17,405	16,888	-3.0	0.4
Concordia	20,828	20,741	-0.4	0.5
DeSoto	25,699	25,091	-2.4	0.6
E. Baton Rouge	380,105	394,249	3.7	9.1
E. Carroll	9,709	8,991	-7.4	0.2
E. Feliciana	19,211	20,825	8.4	0.5
Evangeline	33,274	34,108	2.5	0.8
Franklin	22,387	22,068	-1.4	0.5
Grant	17,526	18,625	6.3	0.4
Iberia	68,297	72,092	5.6	1.7
Iberville	31,049	31,129	0.3	0.7
Jackson	15,924	15,550	-2.3	0.4
Jefferson	448,306	451,240	0.7	10.4
Jefferson Davis	30,722	31,675	3.1	0.7
Lafayette	164,762	184,102	11.7	4.2
Lafourche	85,860	88,037	2.5	2.0
LaSalle	13,662	13,751	0.7	0.3
Lincoln	41,745	41,952	0.5	1.0
Livingston	70,523	85,470	21.2	2.0
Madison	12,463	12,987	4.2	0.3
Morehouse	31,938	31,734	-0.6	0.7
Natchitoches	37,199	37,285	0.2	0.9
Orleans	496,938	469,089	-5.6	10.8
Ouachita	142,191	147,055	3.4	3.4
Plaquemines	25,575	25,856	1.1	0.6
Pointe Coupee	22,540	23,636	4.9	0.5
Rapides	131,556	126,491	-3.9	2.9
Red River	9,518	9,696	1.9	0.2
Richland	20,629	20,861	1.1	0.5
Sabine	22,646	23,762	4.9	0.5



1997 Population Figures for Louisiana Parishes				
Parish	4/1/90 Census	7/1/97 Estimate	% Change 1990-97	7/1/97 % of State
St. Bernard	66,631	66,267	-0.5	1.5
St. Charles	42,437	47,704	12.4	1.1
St. Helena	9,874	9,782	-0.9	0.2
St. James	20,879	20,991	0.5	0.5
St. John	39,996	42,021	5.1	1.0
St. Landry	80,312	83,465	3.9	1.9
St. Martin	44,097	46,769	6.1	1.1
St. Mary	58,086	56,950	-2.0	1.3
St. Tammany	144,500	184,590	27.7	4.2
Tangipahoa	85,709	95,254	11.1	2.2
Tensas	7,103	6,747	-5.0	0.2
Terrebonne	96,982	103,190	6.4	2.4
Union	20,796	21,788	4.8	0.5
Vermilion	50,055	51,693	3.3	1.2
Vernon	61,961	51,832	-16.3	1.2
W. Baton Rouge	19,419	20,468	5.4	0.5
W. Carroll	12,093	12,196	0.9	0.3
W. Feliciana	12,915	13,275	2.8	0.3
Washington	43,185	43,087	-0.2	1.0
Webster	41,989	42,597	1.4	1.0
Winn	16,496	17,769	7.7	0.4

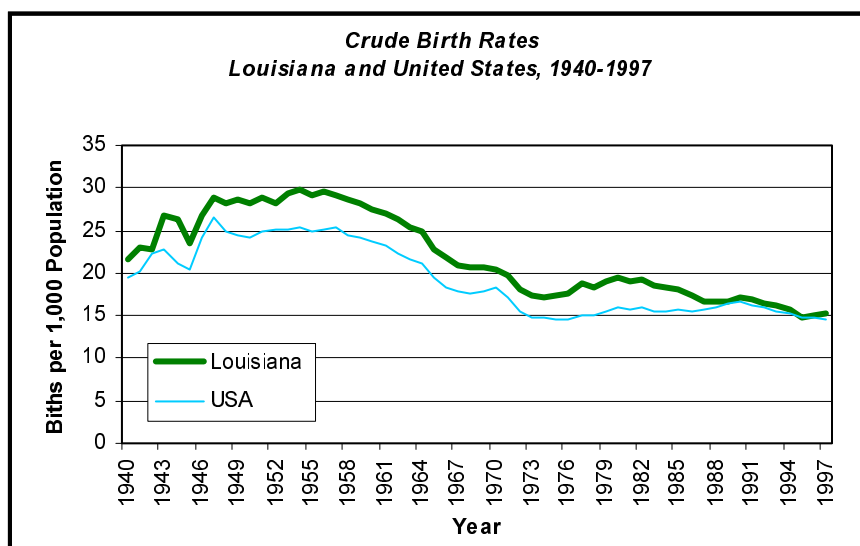
Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates



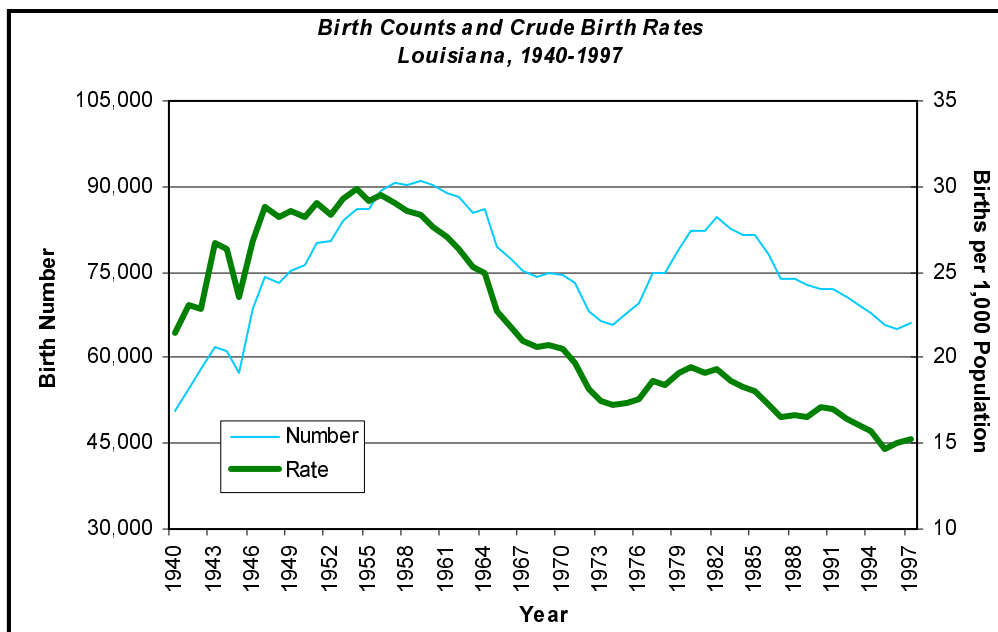
B. BIRTHS

Live Birth Counts and Birth Rates

In 1997, there were 65,947 births to Louisiana residents. This marked a slight increase from the number of Louisiana births in 1996 (up 1.2%), while at the national level there was a slight decrease (down 0.5%) in the number of births between 1996 and 1997. Louisiana's 1997 crude birth rate is 15.2 live births per 1,000 population. Because the crude birth rate relates the number of live births to the total population in an area, without regard to the age or sex distribution of the population, it is useful as a measure of the contribution of births to the growth of the population of the area.¹ Louisiana's 1997 crude birth rate was slightly higher than in 1996 (15.0 per 1,000 population), and also slightly higher than the 1997 national rate (14.6 per 1,000 population).



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

¹ Clarke SC and Ventura SJ. *Birth and Fertility Rates for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52). 1994.



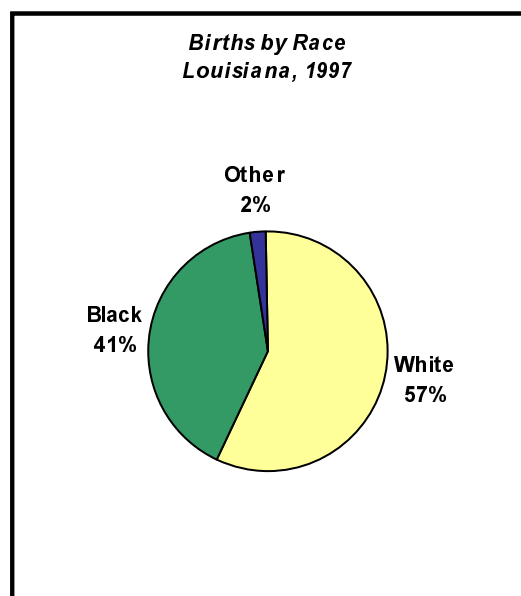
In the table below, crude birth rates are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. (Note: Although Louisiana's final 1997 rate is available and is reported in this document, National Center for Health Statistics preliminary 1997 data for all states have been used in the table below to permit comparison with surrounding states.) Louisiana continues to rank in the top third of the country in terms of birth rate. Louisiana's 1997 ranking of 11th is higher than its 1996 ranking of 14th. Among neighboring states, Louisiana's birth rate ranks in the middle.

Crude Birth Rates		
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1997		
State	Birth Rate	National Ranking
Alabama	14.1	22
Arkansas	14.6	14
Louisiana	15.2	11
Mississippi	15.7	8
Texas	17.2	2
United States	14.6	-

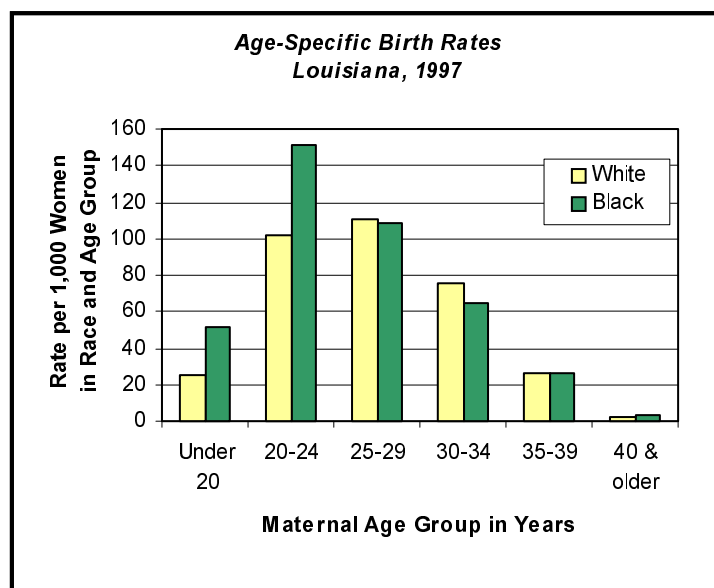
*Rates per 1,000 population

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Although African-Americans represent only 32% of the population of Louisiana, 41% of the state's live births in 1997 were to African-American mothers. The birth rate for whites is 13.0 per 1,000 population while that of African-Americans is 19.4. Much of the disparity seems to occur in women under the age of 25. Although birth rates for both racial groups peak in the twenties, the birth rate for African-Americans is much higher for mothers less than 25 years old than for whites of comparable age. After the age of 25, birth rates become more similar.

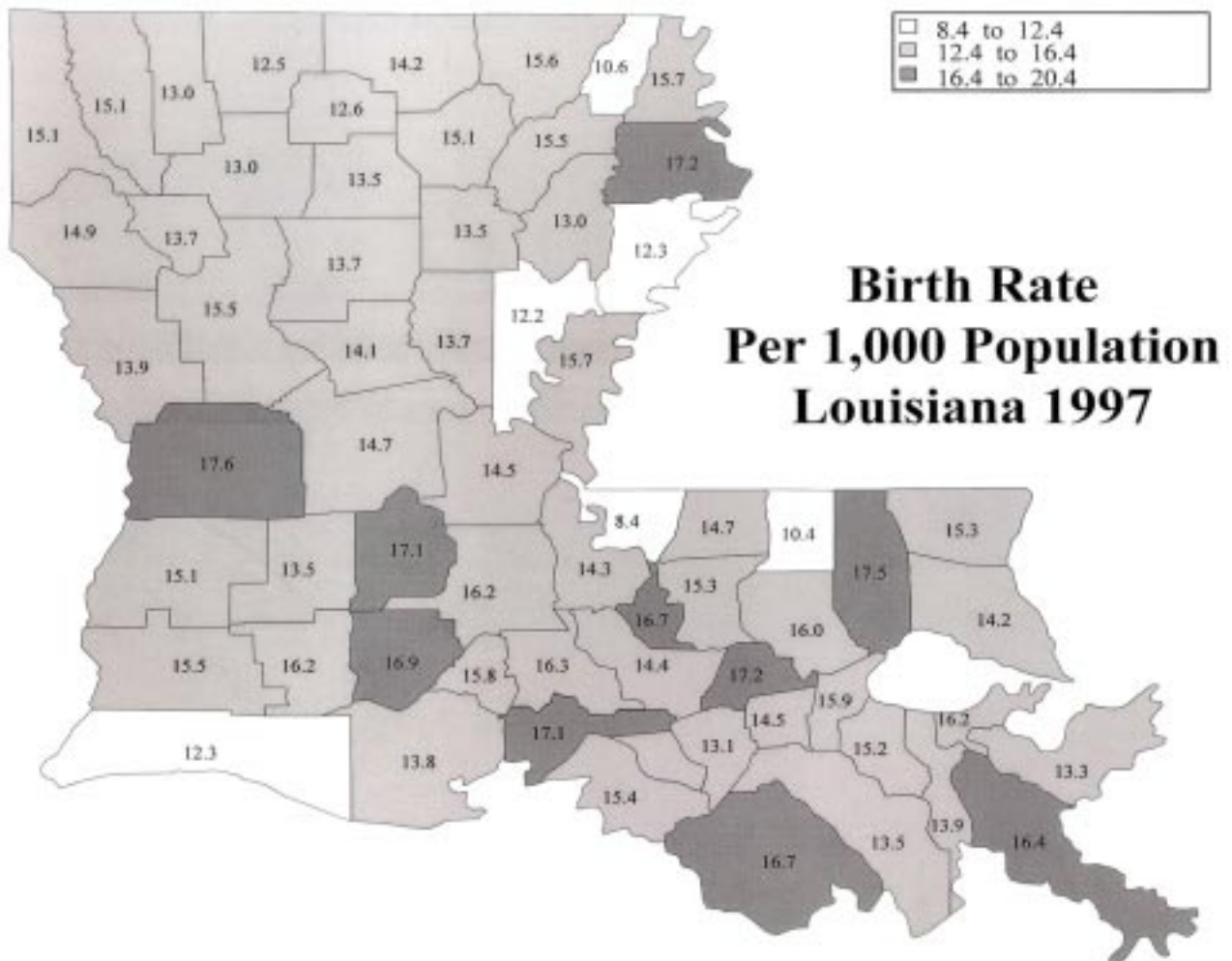


Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

There is also disparity among parishes in terms of birth rate. Vernon parish has the highest rate at 20 births per 1,000 population. This is more than twice the rate of West Feliciana (8.1), the parish with the lowest birth rate.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



**Live Births by Race and Age of Mother,
Parish of Occurrence and Parish of Residence
Louisiana, 1997**

Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Unk
Louisiana	66188	65947	15.2	ALL	294	11931	19535	17005	11509	4762	868	41	2
	37943	37438		White	39	4982	9839	11114	7801	3113	522	26	2
	26843	27115		Black	251	6799	9391	5486	3355	1497	323	13	-
	1402	1394		Other	4	150	305	405	353	152	23	2	-
Acadia	483	972	16.8	ALL	6	210	296	253	136	59	12	-	-
	314	711		White	3	131	211	198	112	49	7	-	-
	168	258		Black	3	79	84	55	23	9	5	-	-
	1	3		Other	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Allen	4	323	13.4	ALL	-	67	119	87	29	12	7	2	-
	3	251		White	-	45	90	70	26	12	6	2	-
	1	66		Black	-	21	27	14	3	-	1	-	-
	-	6		Other	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Ascension	6	1166	16.6	ALL	5	154	306	386	234	71	10	-	-
	3	863		White	2	91	196	314	198	54	8	-	-
	3	300		Black	3	63	107	72	36	17	2	-	-
	-	3		Other	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assumption	2	298	13	ALL	-	69	79	87	39	17	6	1	-
	1	184		White	-	31	51	60	30	10	1	1	-
	1	114		Black	-	38	28	27	9	7	5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Avoyelles	3	585	14.2	ALL	5	128	202	140	70	30	10	-	-
	-	369		White	1	70	130	98	50	18	2	-	-
	3	213		Black	4	58	71	41	19	12	8	-	-
	-	3		Other	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Beauregard	596	479	15.2	ALL	1	95	170	113	63	31	6	-	-
	477	400		White	1	73	136	106	57	24	3	-	-
	106	71		Black	-	22	31	5	4	7	2	-	-
	13	8		Other	-	-	3	2	2	-	1	-	-
Bienville	-	217	13.8	ALL	-	53	77	49	26	10	2	-	-
	-	120		White	-	25	44	32	15	4	-	-	-
	-	96		Black	-	28	33	17	11	5	2	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bossier	785	1382	14.7	ALL	3	236	402	394	256	80	10	1	-
	637	968		White	-	132	271	298	199	60	7	1	-
	127	381		Black	3	100	129	84	47	15	3	-	-
	21	33		Other	-	4	2	12	10	5	-	-	-
Caddo	5838	3690	15.1	ALL	25	695	1170	946	555	253	45	1	-
	2918	1592		White	-	180	440	502	318	127	25	-	-
	2840	2048		Black	25	510	722	429	221	120	20	1	-
	80	50		Other	-	5	8	15	16	6	-	-	-
Calcasieu	3207	2777	15.5	ALL	6	520	820	768	449	179	34	1	-
	2313	1913		White	1	285	539	595	335	132	26	-	-
	864	836		Black	5	233	276	161	110	42	8	1	-
	30	28		Other	-	2	5	12	4	5	-	-	-



Live Births by Race and Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1997													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Unk
Caldwell	1	138	13.6	ALL	2	28	53	29	19	4	3	-	-
	1	107		White	-	25	39	25	13	2	3	-	-
	-	30		Black	2	3	14	3	6	2	-	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cameron	-	107	11.7	ALL	-	24	48	13	16	3	3	-	-
	-	100		White	-	24	45	12	13	3	3	-	-
	-	6		Black	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Catahoula	-	136	12.6	ALL	-	36	56	24	14	6	-	-	-
	-	96		White	-	18	42	20	11	5	-	-	-
	-	40		Black	-	18	14	4	3	1	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Claiborne	109	214	12.5	ALL	1	42	69	48	41	11	2	-	-
	44	101		White	-	14	28	29	25	4	1	-	-
	65	111		Black	1	28	39	19	16	7	1	-	-
	-	2		Other	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Concordia	228	328	15.8	ALL	4	84	127	65	38	9	1	-	-
	69	154		White	-	29	64	33	22	6	-	-	-
	157	172		Black	4	55	63	30	16	3	1	-	-
	2	2		Other	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
DeSoto	1	349	13.7	ALL	2	71	116	97	42	17	4	-	-
	1	186		White	-	26	66	60	26	6	2	-	-
	-	163		Black	2	45	50	37	16	11	2	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E. Baton Rouge	9685	6072	15.3	ALL	33	877	1580	1624	1272	550	130	6	-
	5631	2870		White	-	214	507	903	823	343	76	4	-
	3885	3045		Black	33	658	1045	673	397	188	49	2	-
	169	157		Other	-	5	28	48	52	19	5	-	-
E. Carroll	2	144	15.6	ALL	2	31	51	32	20	5	3	-	-
	-	30		White	-	2	11	8	4	3	2	-	-
	2	114		Black	2	29	40	24	16	2	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E. Feliciana	4	307	14.7	ALL	-	73	98	80	37	14	5	-	-
	2	158		White	-	28	50	50	22	5	3	-	-
	1	147		Black	-	45	48	28	15	9	2	-	-
	1	2		Other	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Evangeline	775	585	17	ALL	5	130	184	169	71	21	5	-	-
	451	375		White	2	61	120	126	49	13	4	-	-
	310	208		Black	3	69	63	43	21	8	1	-	-
	14	2		Other	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Franklin	5	288	12.9	ALL	1	64	113	71	31	6	2	-	-
	3	156		White	-	28	63	47	16	1	1	-	-
	2	131		Black	1	36	50	23	15	5	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-



**Live Births by Race and Age of Mother,
Parish of Occurrence and Parish of Residence
Louisiana, 1997**

Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate	Race	Residence								
					Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Unk
Grant	2	262	13.9	ALL	-	53	90	57	38	22	2	-	-
	2	230		White	-	46	79	48	36	20	1	-	-
	-	31		Black	-	6	11	9	2	2	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iberia	1032	1225	17.1	ALL	5	244	394	298	196	79	9	-	-
	576	684		White	1	103	204	194	124	53	5	-	-
	437	515		Black	4	133	180	101	70	23	4	-	-
	19	26		Other	-	8	10	3	2	3	-	-	-
Iberville	495	444	14.3	ALL	5	73	133	126	79	27	1	-	-
	95	201		White	-	23	54	69	45	10	-	-	-
	398	243		Black	5	50	79	57	34	17	1	-	-
	2	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jackson	2	209	13.5	ALL	1	31	78	52	38	9	-	-	-
	-	138		White	-	15	52	36	28	7	-	-	-
	2	70		Black	1	16	26	15	10	2	-	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	7864	6327	14	ALL	19	935	1584	1672	1462	557	94	4	-
	5097	4008		White	5	456	826	1163	1092	395	69	2	-
	2407	1964		Black	12	447	692	403	277	113	18	2	-
	360	355		Other	2	32	66	106	93	49	7	-	-
Jeff. Davis	390	515	16.3	ALL	2	109	159	124	78	35	8	-	-
	308	401		White	-	77	121	105	61	30	7	-	-
	80	106		Black	2	31	37	15	16	4	1	-	-
	2	8		Other	-	1	1	4	1	1	-	-	-
Lafayette	5003	2871	15.8	ALL	11	393	755	791	623	256	40	2	-
	3395	1959		White	4	188	454	598	476	208	29	2	-
	1527	864		Black	7	201	293	180	132	40	11	-	-
	81	48		Other	-	4	8	13	15	8	-	-	-
Lafourche	1014	1181	13.4	ALL	3	204	336	338	203	89	8	-	-
	923	909		White	1	136	247	283	169	68	5	-	-
	72	225		Black	2	59	74	41	29	17	3	-	-
	19	47		Other	-	9	15	14	5	4	-	-	-
LaSalle	116	190	13.5	ALL	-	35	69	54	23	8	1	-	-
	67	168		White	-	28	61	52	21	6	-	-	-
	49	22		Black	-	7	8	2	2	2	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	554	534	12.6	ALL	3	102	178	140	75	26	9	1	-
	283	255		White	-	31	73	76	47	22	5	1	-
	267	276		Black	3	71	104	64	27	4	3	-	-
	4	3		Other	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Livingston	4	1330	15.9	ALL	1	221	400	428	199	67	13	1	-
	4	1232		White	1	201	361	409	188	60	11	1	-
	-	91		Black	-	19	37	17	9	7	2	-	-
	-	7		Other	-	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	-



Live Births by Race and Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1997													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Unk
Madison	-	224	16.8	ALL	4	48	89	48	23	10	2	-	-
	-	55		White	-	9	21	13	7	4	1	-	-
	-	169		Black	4	39	68	35	16	6	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	430	499	15.7	ALL	1	137	180	116	46	17	2	-	-
	269	220		White	-	41	76	70	24	9	-	-	-
	161	279		Black	1	96	104	46	22	8	2	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natchitoches	646	593	15.6	ALL	2	124	207	144	79	32	5	-	-
	334	309		White	1	45	104	92	48	16	3	-	-
	305	278		Black	1	77	102	50	30	16	2	-	-
	7	6		Other	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
Orleans	9228	7734	16.4	ALL	46	1529	2383	1672	1324	619	151	10	-
	2576	1419		White	1	71	222	405	421	237	57	5	-
	6377	6098		Black	45	1448	2127	1194	833	358	89	4	-
	275	217		Other	-	10	34	73	70	24	5	1	-
Ouachita	3586	2217	15.1	ALL	15	381	714	605	330	141	31	-	-
	1995	1191		White	-	130	331	403	219	96	12	-	-
	1575	1014		Black	15	251	382	199	105	43	19	-	-
	16	12		Other	-	-	1	3	6	2	-	-	-
Plaquemines	9	425	16.4	ALL	1	82	135	113	58	30	6	-	-
	1	272		White	-	42	82	85	44	17	2	-	-
	7	130		Black	1	38	44	21	12	10	4	-	-
	1	23		Other	-	2	9	7	2	3	-	-	-
Pointe Coupee	2	331	14.1	ALL	3	68	100	72	54	33	1	-	-
	-	161		White	-	20	42	46	37	15	1	-	-
	2	170		Black	3	48	58	26	17	18	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rapides	3033	1852	14.5	ALL	7	381	566	482	295	109	12	-	-
	2004	1085		White	1	166	308	328	201	72	9	-	-
	1003	746		Black	6	212	253	149	89	34	3	-	-
	26	21		Other	-	3	5	5	5	3	-	-	-
Red River	1	134	13.6	ALL	3	24	47	36	16	6	2	-	-
	-	67		White	-	9	24	18	12	3	1	-	-
	1	65		Black	3	15	22	18	3	3	1	-	-
	-	2		Other	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Richland	1	324	15.9	ALL	3	75	111	76	40	17	2	-	-
	-	166		White	-	23	57	49	27	9	1	-	-
	1	157		Black	3	52	54	27	12	8	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sabine	4	331	13.9	ALL	-	63	116	84	52	13	3	-	-
	-	232		White	-	47	83	57	38	7	-	-	-
	4	85		Black	-	13	31	24	10	5	2	-	-
	-	14		Other	-	3	2	3	4	1	1	-	-



**Live Births by Race and Age of Mother,
Parish of Occurrence and Parish of Residence
Louisiana, 1997**

Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Unk
St. Bernard	2 1 - 1	884 784 75 25	13.2	ALL White Black Other	- - - -	121 104 17 -	237 208 23 6	260 231 19 10	180 162 11 7	76 70 4 2	10 9 1 -	- - - -	- - - -
St. Charles	2 1 1 -	716 489 222 5	15.1	ALL White Black Other	1 1 - -	110 52 58 -	169 91 77 1	193 148 44 1	167 137 29 1	73 57 14 2	3 3 - -	- - - -	- - - -
St. Helena	1 - 1 -	101 48 53 -	10.4	ALL White Black Other	1 - 1 -	20 8 12 -	38 18 20 -	23 13 10 -	14 6 8 -	5 3 2 -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
St. James	3 3 - -	303 132 171 -	14	ALL White Black Other	2 - 2 -	41 5 36 -	77 26 51 -	91 50 41 -	57 34 23 -	35 17 18 -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
St. John	434 238 191 5	674 321 349 4	16	ALL White Black Other	2 - 2 -	123 37 86 -	184 70 114 -	169 94 74 1	141 84 54 3	49 33 16 -	4 2 2 -	2 1 1 -	- - - -
St. Landry	1293 749 540 4	1340 672 664 4	16.2	ALL White Black Other	7 2 5 -	275 105 168 2	416 193 222 1	324 185 138 1	207 122 85 -	93 59 34 -	18 6 12 -	- - - -	- - - -
St. Martin	1 1 - -	755 429 316 10	16.2	ALL White Black Other	5 2 3 -	144 65 78 1	213 116 92 5	177 114 60 3	138 83 55 -	66 40 25 1	11 8 3 -	1 1 - -	- - - -
St. Mary	644 338 291 15	887 504 364 19	15.5	ALL White Black Other	2 - 2 -	194 97 95 2	295 154 132 9	210 131 74 5	130 89 39 2	44 25 18 1	11 7 4 -	- - - -	1 1 - -
St. Tammany	3283 2624 631 28	2532 2144 361 27	14	ALL White Black Other	2 - 2 -	312 212 98 2	518 402 109 7	689 605 81 3	627 578 36 13	324 292 30 2	56 51 5 -	4 4 - -	- - - -
Tangipahoa	1593 913 672 8	1652 964 678 10	17.3	ALL White Black Other	8 2 6 -	401 166 233 2	541 293 246 2	378 262 113 3	233 174 56 3	77 57 20 -	12 9 3 -	1 - 1 -	1 1 - -
Tensas	1 - 1 -	85 30 55 -	12.6	ALL White Black Other	1 - 1 -	27 5 22 -	26 11 15 -	14 8 6 -	8 4 4 -	7 1 6 -	2 1 1 -	- - - -	- - - -



Live Births by Race and Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1997													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Unk
Terrebonne	2232	1701	16.6	ALL	7	364	469	447	281	116	16	1	-
	1380	1171		White	2	219	317	324	217	83	9	-	-
	702	405		Black	4	103	119	100	47	28	4	-	-
	150	125		Other	1	42	33	23	17	5	3	1	-
Union	2	306	14.1	ALL	2	58	112	76	45	11	2	-	-
	1	207		White	-	36	72	57	33	8	1	-	-
	1	97		Black	2	22	40	18	11	3	1	-	-
	-	2		Other	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Vermilion	229	710	13.8	ALL	3	114	213	210	125	44	1	-	-
	127	542		White	2	85	151	170	99	34	1	-	-
	97	150		Black	1	28	53	34	24	10	-	-	-
	5	18		Other	-	1	9	6	2	-	-	-	-
Vernon	577	962	20.4	ALL	2	166	383	263	109	37	2	-	-
	392	730		White	1	125	289	208	81	24	2	-	-
	148	187		Black	-	37	74	45	21	10	-	-	-
	37	45		Other	1	4	20	10	7	3	-	-	-
Washington	39	662	15.1	ALL	5	165	248	134	67	36	7	-	-
	12	421		White	2	91	152	99	49	22	6	-	-
	27	240		Black	3	74	96	34	18	14	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Webster	698	555	13	ALL	3	127	191	130	66	34	4	-	-
	365	311		White	-	56	105	91	37	20	2	-	-
	327	241		Black	3	71	86	38	28	13	2	-	-
	6	3		Other	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
W. Baton Rouge	2	344	16.8	ALL	2	67	99	94	56	21	5	-	-
	-	185		White	-	26	52	57	37	9	4	-	-
	2	158		Black	2	40	47	37	19	12	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. Carroll	-	129	10.6	ALL	-	26	54	25	16	7	1	-	-
	-	96		White	-	20	39	20	12	4	1	-	-
	-	33		Black	-	6	15	5	4	3	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. Feliciana	1	109	8.1	ALL	1	18	22	35	23	9	-	1	-
	-	59		White	-	2	13	24	14	5	-	1	-
	1	50		Black	1	16	9	11	9	4	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winn	1	231	13.4	ALL	2	59	70	60	30	8	1	1	-
	1	133		White	-	27	42	38	20	5	1	-	-
	-	98		Black	2	32	28	22	10	3	-	1	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out of State	857	1098		ALL	-	108	295	342	206	104	32	9	2
	435	940		White	-	79	237	309	182	97	26	9	1
	420	148		Black	-	29	56	31	18	7	6	-	1
	2	10		Other	-	-	2	2	6	-	-	-	-

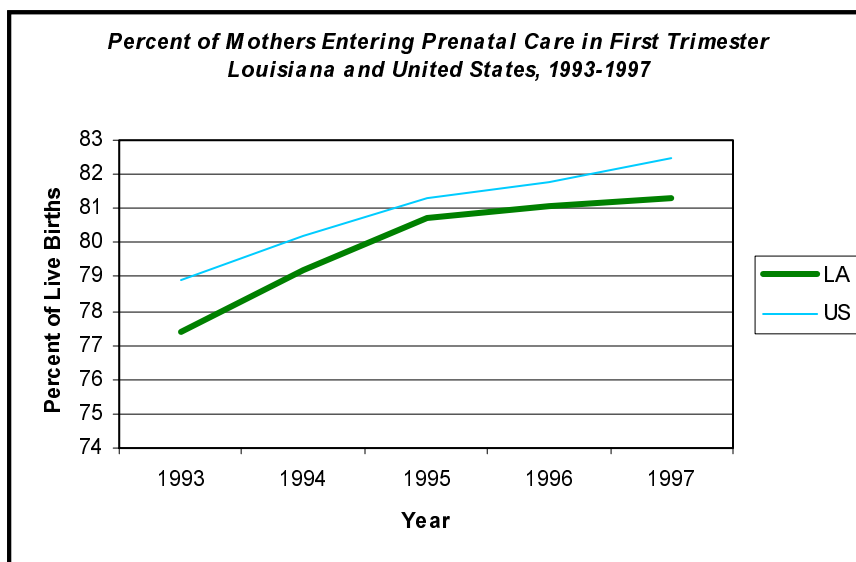
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is recognized as an important means of providing medical, nutritional, and educational interventions to reduce the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and to identify women at high risk for these outcomes. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent on prenatal care, up to \$3.38 can be saved on direct medical costs.² Beyond the positive effect on birth outcomes, prenatal care is a vital part of women's health care, as many women (particularly adolescents, minorities, and women of low socio-economic status) first enter the health care system during pregnancy.³

Prenatal care is most effective when it begins during the early stages of pregnancy. At the national level, the percentage of mothers entering prenatal care in the first trimester has been steadily increasing. Louisiana, while consistently below the national percentage, has shown similar improvement.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

In the following table, percentages of women utilizing prenatal care are furnished to allow comparison of Louisiana with neighboring states. (As previously noted, preliminary NCHS 1997 numbers are used for cross-state comparisons.) In 1997, 81.3% of Louisiana residents who gave birth entered prenatal care in the first trimester, as compared with 82.5% of mothers in the United States. Louisiana ranked 37th in the nation and second among neighboring states.

²Institute of Medicine. (1994). "Prenatal Care and Low Birthweight: Effects on Health Care Expenditures." In: *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (pp. 212-37) Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

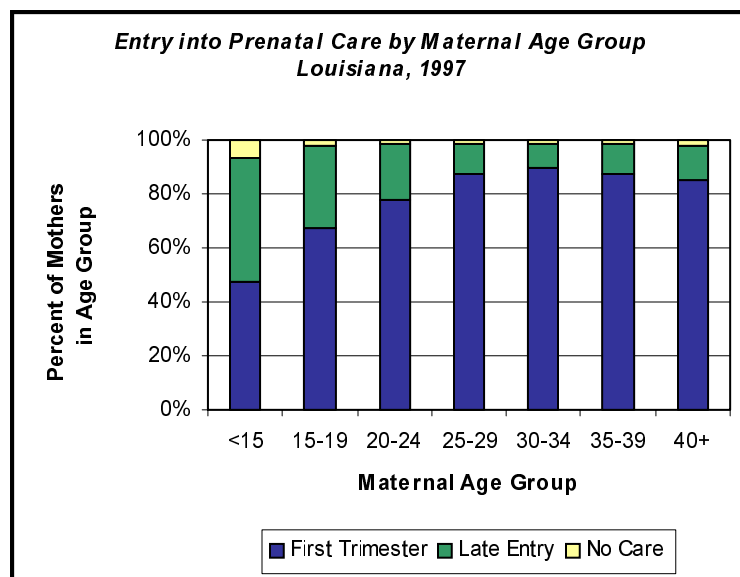
³Fiscella, K. (1995). "Does Prenatal Care Improve Birth Outcomes? A Critical Review." *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 85, 468-79.



Percent of Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1997		
State	Percent of Mothers	National Ranking
Alabama	82.3	32
Arkansas	75.7	48
Louisiana	81.3	37
Mississippi	80.0	42
Texas	78.5	46
United States	82.5	-

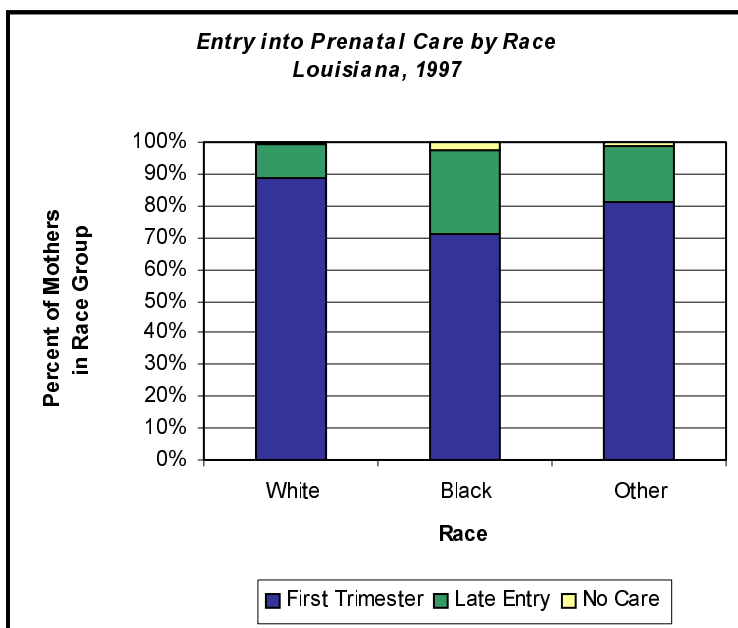
Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

Less than half (47.3%) of mothers under the age of 15 started prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, and 6.5% of this age group never received any prenatal care. However, entry into care improved with age before leveling off in the mid-twenties.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

African-American women entered into prenatal care in a timely manner less frequently than whites and other races. Only 71.1% of African-American mothers had their first prenatal visit in the first trimester, compared with 88.7% of white mothers. Also, 2.7% of African-American mothers received no prenatal care, as compared with 0.6% of white women.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In Louisiana, adequacy of prenatal care is measured by a modified Kessner index, which defines prenatal care as adequate if the first prenatal visit occurred in the first trimester of pregnancy and if the total number of visits was appropriate to the gestational age of the baby at birth. It should be noted, however, that these measures assess neither the quality nor the content of prenatal care and, therefore, are most likely overestimates of the adequacy of the care. Of the 65,011 Louisiana residents who gave birth in 1997, 75.4% received adequate prenatal care.

Percent of Women Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1992-1997						
Parish	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Louisiana	68.2	70.1	71.8	73.5	74.8	75.4
Acadia	69.6	65.7	52.6	50.3	57.7	59.6
Allen	59.2	63.0	64.7	63.3	70.4	67.2
Ascension	73.8	76.3	78.3	79.5	79.1	83.0
Assumption	71.3	75.7	75.2	75.5	78.2	82.7
Avoyelles	58.3	57.1	61.1	64.4	70.0	69.7
Beauregard	63.0	58.5	60.7	60.7	63.5	70.8
Bienville	46.9	57.0	58.1	61.5	57.2	64.5
Bossier	72.9	77.2	77.2	79.5	77.9	76.3
Caddo	59.4	69.1	70.4	71.0	69.5	68.0
Calcasieu	74.9	76.3	78.3	80.0	79.6	81.6
Caldwell	72.7	71.6	75.4	80.7	79.4	79.0
Cameron	73.6	79.8	81.5	88.6	84.3	84.0
Catahoula	69.0	73.5	71.0	74.3	65.7	73.3
Claiborne	44.1	53.4	58.1	67.4	63.4	61.0
Concordia	61.5	67.1	65.9	72.7	73.7	65.7
DeSoto	53.1	68.1	69.2	68.8	66.8	68.1

*According to modified Kessner index

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Percent of Women Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1992-1997						
Parish	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
East Baton Rouge	72.2	72.0	74.5	78.3	75.7	75.4
East Carroll	52.6	57.2	56.1	55.9	69.6	60.3
East Feliciana	61.4	63.7	65.8	67.7	60.1	70.8
Evangeline	61.9	65.1	66.2	62.7	69.7	69.0
Franklin	68.5	66.2	71.7	74.6	65.4	70.3
Grant	69.7	63.0	72.4	77.0	79.8	79.5
Iberia	74.0	64.6	66.5	66.9	61.2	61.1
Iberville	61.4	67.9	73.0	75.4	74.4	78.1
Jackson	53.5	47.2	47.9	57.8	59.1	57.8
Jefferson	75.6	77.9	79.4	81.6	61.1	83.6
Jefferson Davis	58.4	59.5	58.6	62.6	83.3	62.6
Lafayette	77.5	76.2	79.0	72.5	74.1	80.3
Lafourche	74.7	74.6	78.0	83.4	79.8	78.2
LaSalle	68.0	66.8	68.7	65.7	72.9	71.1
Lincoln	40.3	43.9	36.7	48.6	49.9	49.2
Livingston	78.1	83.3	79.4	79.7	83.9	85.2
Madison	60.3	52.1	57.1	56.8	64.4	55.5
Morehouse	53.9	53.2	55.6	50.0	50.6	49.8
Natchitoches	59.7	61.4	60.7	73.7	72.0	68.9
Orleans	59.7	65.0	66.7	65.8	71.4	74.7
Ouachita	70.0	66.3	74.2	78.3	78.0	77.1
Plaquemines	74.4	75.4	71.7	74.0	79.0	74.8
Pointe Coupee	68.9	68.2	69.1	76.5	76.5	75.9
Rapides	66.4	62.7	68.0	70.3	74.7	74.5
Red River	59.9	71.2	69.0	74.5	58.0	64.7
Richland	65.8	70.3	63.9	68.5	75.7	72.8
Sabine	56.0	66.2	64.4	72.9	69.8	73.1
St. Bernard	76.1	82.0	85.5	86.7	88.5	89.9
St. Charles	71.8	78.0	80.7	80.0	84.9	82.6
St. Helena	70.9	81.7	73.8	68.4	71.6	86.9
St. James	55.7	63.0	65.2	65.5	68.2	63.3
St. John	57.5	64.9	64.7	62.9	72.1	65.1
St. Landry	61.2	54.5	57.4	62.0	66.1	63.6
St. Martin	71.2	65.9	70.6	70.2	70.8	73.2
St. Mary	74.1	75.1	77.3	76.9	79.0	75.7
St. Tammany	82.4	84.5	85.8	87.3	86.0	85.8
Tangipahoa	74.6	79.1	72.8	78.8	79.8	87.5
Tensas	68.7	71.1	72.2	67.6	60.0	60.7
Terrebonne	72.8	70.2	71.0	75.9	76.1	73.4
Union	55.5	56.3	59.7	66.1	63.1	66.7
Vermilion	74.4	71.6	76.7	77.1	81.0	84.0
Vernon	70.5	68.6	75.7	76.8	76.9	77.7
Washington	43.5	57.4	62.0	65.6	78.4	74.1
Webster	60.9	72.5	69.7	72.6	76.9	68.9
West Baton Rouge	71.7	71.7	71.0	79.3	74.9	78.6
West Carroll	62.6	59.9	64.9	64.4	67.9	58.6
West Feliciana	63.5	68.1	65.1	75.8	63.3	71.3
Winn	57.6	47.5	49.1	51.4	64.0	57.4

*According to modified Kessner index

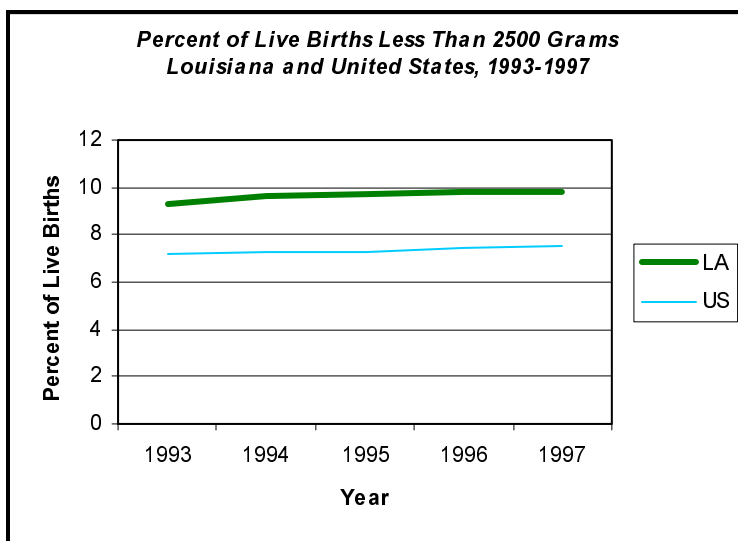
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Low Birth Weight

A low birth weight infant is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth. Low birth weight is a major cause of infant mortality, with more than three-quarters of infant deaths caused by babies being born too small or too early.⁴ Low birth weight contributes significantly to later childhood handicap as well. Low birth weight infants are more likely to have brain damage, lung and liver disease, subnormal growth, developmental problems, and other adverse health conditions. The effects of low birth weight follow infants throughout life, as they are more likely to have mild learning disorders, attention disorders, and developmental impairments.⁵ A higher proportion of low birth weight infants also go on to be enrolled in special education classes than their normal birth weight counterparts.⁶

In 1997, 6,727 of the infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 2500 grams (5lbs 8oz). This represents 10.2% of the live births that year, as compared with 7.5% of the babies born in the United States who were low birth weight. In recent years, neither Louisiana nor the nation has shown any significant reduction in the percentage of infants born with low birth weight.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

In the table below, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of low birth weight infants. (As previously noted, preliminary NCHS 1997 percentages are used for cross-state comparisons.) In 1997, Louisiana had the highest percentage of low birth weight babies in the nation.

Percent of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1997		
State	Percent of Live Births	National Ranking
Alabama	9.3	3
Arkansas	8.3	12
Louisiana	10.1	1
Mississippi	10.1	1
Texas	7.3	27
United States	7.5	-

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

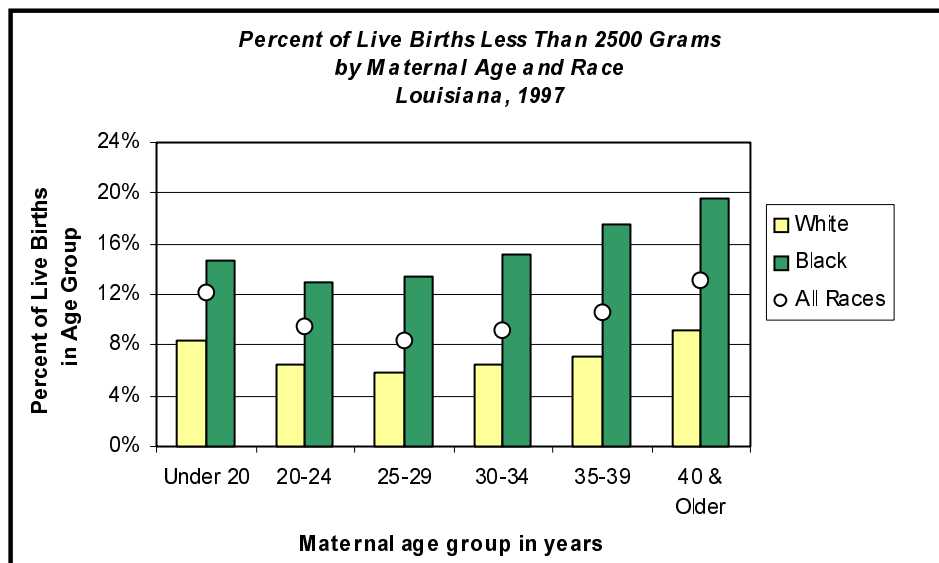
⁴Paneth NS. (1995) "The Problem of Low Birth Weight." In *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* (19-34).

⁵Institute of Medicine. (1985). "The Significance of Low Birthweight." In: *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (pp. 21-45). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

⁶Hack M, Klein NK, Taylor HG. "Long-Term Developmental Outcomes of Low Birth Weight Infants." *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* 1995;5:19-34.



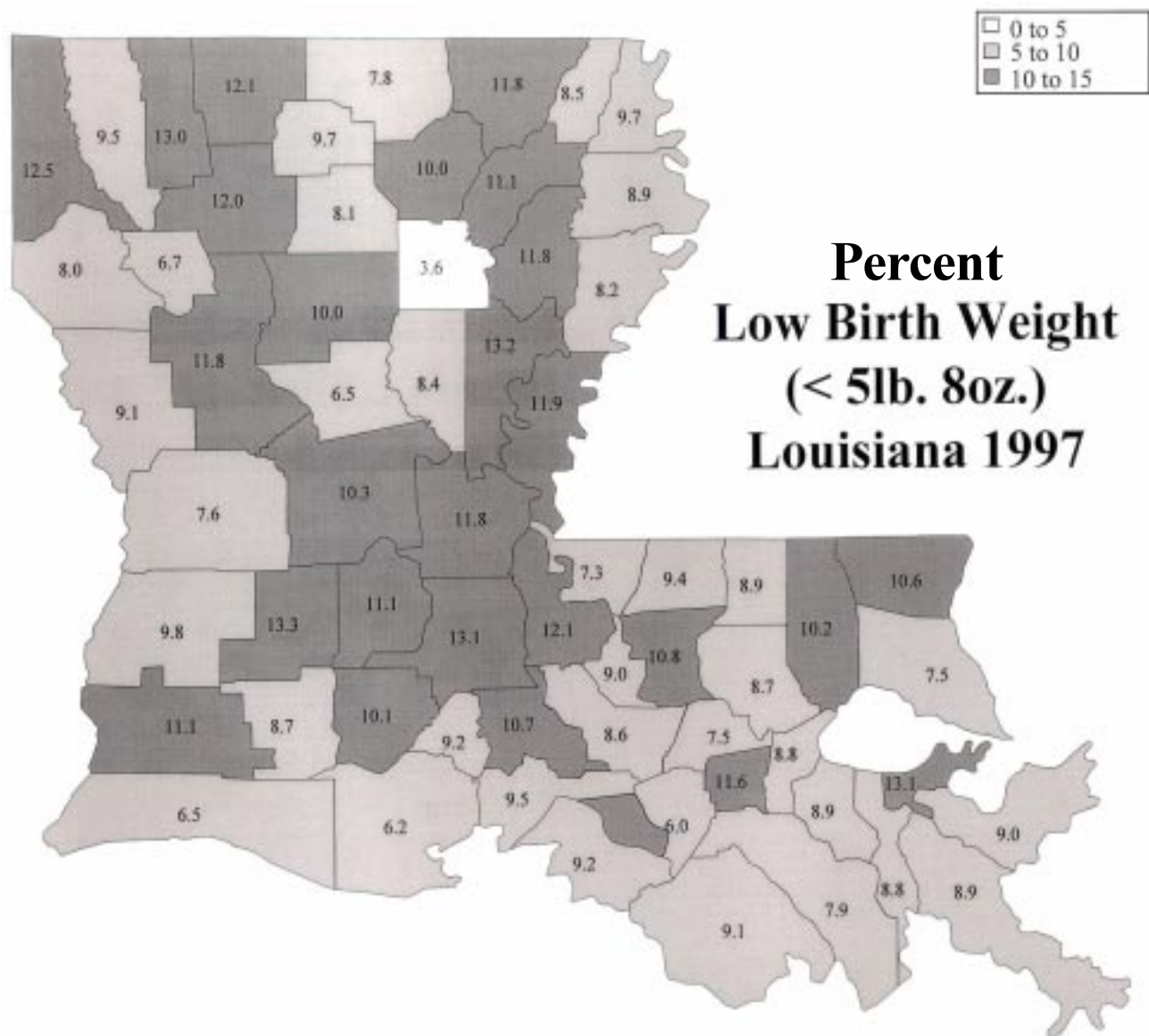
African-Americans gave birth to infants of low birth weight more than twice as frequently as white women did, at 14.6% compared with 7.0% of live births. This discrepancy held true for all age groups. Examination of births by age groups found mothers 40 and older had the highest percentage of low birth weight babies (13.2% of live births), as well as the greatest discrepancy between white mothers (9.2% of births were low weight) and African-American mothers (19.6% of births were low weight).



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Allen parish had the highest percentage of low birth weight babies at 13.3% of live births, and Caldwell parish had the lowest at 3.6% of live births. The map on the following page shows the percent of live births that are low birth weight babies in each parish.

⁷Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; vol 45 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

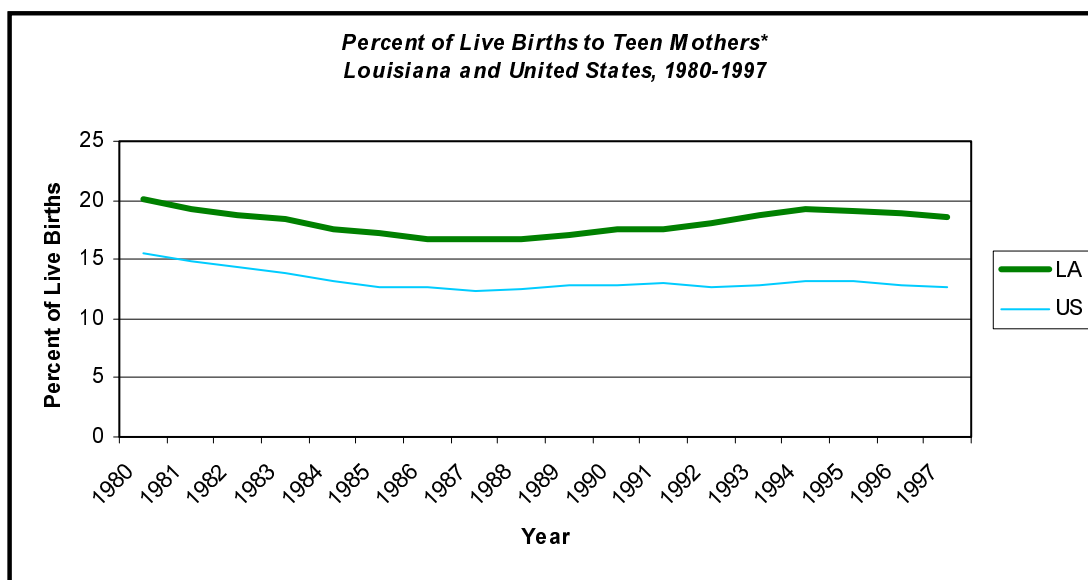
Infants weighing less than 1500 grams (3 lbs 5oz) at birth are considered to be very low birth weight and are at much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability. The risk of early death for a very low birth weight infant is about 65 times that of infants who weigh at least 1500 grams.⁷ In 1997, 2.1% of infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 1500 grams, as compared with 1.4% of infants born to United States residents. As with infants weighing less than 2500 grams, there were demographic differences in the mothers giving births to very low birth weight infants. African-American mothers gave birth to very low birth weight infants three times as frequently as white mothers did, at 3.4% compared with 1.2% of live births. Infants born to young mothers and older mothers of all races were also more frequently very low birth weight. Of all infants born to mothers under the age of 20, 2.3% were very low birth weight, and 2.2% of infants born to mothers over the age of 40 weighed less than 1500 grams.



Teen Births

Despite an overall decrease in teen birth rates over the last two decades, teenage pregnancy continues to be a problem for the nation. Teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to give birth to low birth weight infants.⁸ These infants are also more likely to be hospitalized and go on to have childhood health problems. National Statistics report that most (76%⁹) births to teens occur outside of marriage, and 25%¹⁰ of teenage mothers go on to have more children within the next two years. These factors, combined with the fact that teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school, contribute to the high proportion of women living in poverty who first gave birth during adolescence. In 1993, of the 3.8 million mothers aged 15-44 who received welfare or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), 55% first became mothers as teenagers.¹¹ In fiscal year 1995, Louisiana spent over \$875 million on programs that support families begun by teens (in the form of AFDC, Food Stamps, WIC, and Medicaid). In contrast, Louisiana spent only \$5.7 million on programs designed to prevent teenage pregnancy.¹²

In 1997, there were 12,225 live births to Louisiana residents under the age of 20. This number comprised 18.6% of the total live births to Louisiana residents in 1997, as compared with 12.8% at the national level.



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

⁸ Lewis CT, Mathews TJ, Heuser RL. *Prenatal Care in the United States, 1980-94*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(54). 1996.

⁹ Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Mathews TJ, Clarke SC. "Advance report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994." *Monthly Vital Statistics report*, vol 44 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1996.

¹⁰ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994.

¹¹ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Issues in Brief*. February 1995.

¹² Kreutzer, Tracy A. *Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South*. Volume II. (1997), Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality. Washington, DC.



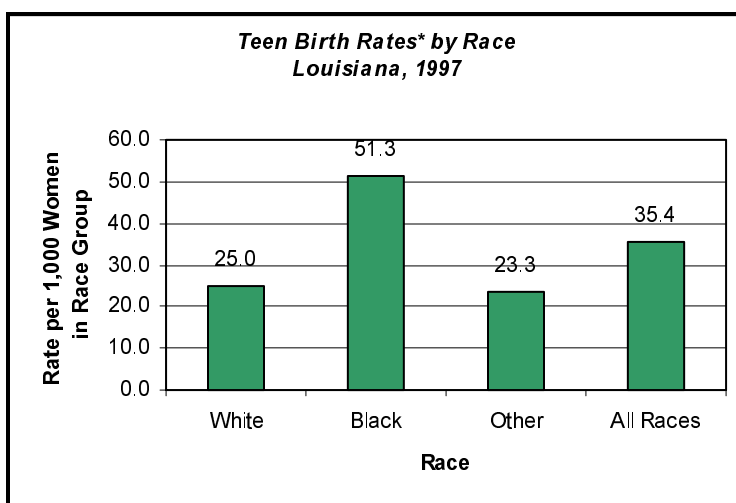
In the table below, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of births to teenagers. (As noted previously, preliminary NCHS 1997 numbers are used to facilitate cross-state comparisons.) Louisiana has consistently ranked near the top of the states in terms of percentage of live births to teens, and 1997 was no exception. Louisiana had the third highest percentage of live births to teens in the nation, one of the four southern states at the top of the list.

Percent of Live Births to Teens* Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1997		
State	Birth Rate	National Ranking
Alabama	17.6	4
Arkansas	19.2	2
Louisiana	18.6	3
Mississippi	20.7	1
Texas	16.1	10
United States	12.8	-

*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

To make comparisons of births among teens in different race groups meaningful, teen birth rates have been calculated by relating the number of teen births in each race group to the total number of teen women in the same race group. This method of calculating teen birth rates controls for differences in the proportion of women in the race groups, and is the method used by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).¹³ In Louisiana, the birth rate for African-American teenagers in 1997 was more than twice that of white teenagers, at 51.3 compared with 25.0 births per 1,000 women in the respective age and race groups.



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

¹³ Clarke SC and Ventura SL. *Birth and Fertility Rates for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52). 1994.



There is considerable variation in teenage birth rates by parish. Acadia parish has the highest rate at 152.5 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. This is over four times the rate of Lincoln, the parish with the lowest rate at 33.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. The following map shows teenage birth rates in Louisiana by parish.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Percent of Total Live Births to Teenagers 15-19 Years of Age Louisiana, 1997															
Parish	15-17 Years					18-19 Years					15-19 Years*				
	93	94	95	96	97	93	94	95	96	97	93	94	95	96	97
Louisiana	7	8	7	7	7	11	11	11	11	11	18	19	19	18	18
Acadia	7	8	8	7	9	13	13	12	13	13	20	21	21	20	22
Allen	8	9	8	6	5	13	14	13	11	15	21	23	21	17	21
Ascension	6	6	5	6	5	7	8	10	9	9	13	15	15	15	13
Assumption	6	10	6	6	9	8	11	12	14	14	14	21	18	20	23
Avoyelles	8	9	7	7	10	12	13	13	11	13	20	22	20	19	22
Beauregard	6	7	4	5	9	15	11	13	12	12	22	19	17	18	20
Bienville	9	7	5	10	10	11	10	14	10	14	20	17	19	21	24
Bossier	7	7	5	6	6	8	10	10	10	11	15	16	16	16	17
Caddo	8	8	8	8	7	11	11	12	11	12	20	20	19	18	19
Calcasieu	8	7	7	6	7	11	11	12	13	12	19	18	19	19	19
Caldwell	7	4	11	10	6	14	11	11	12	16	21	16	22	22	20
Cameron	6	6	5	9	12	8	9	9	21	10	14	14	14	30	22
Catahoula	9	9	11	6	8	17	13	14	20	18	26	22	25	26	26
Claiborne	12	10	10	13	9	13	14	8	9	11	25	24	19	22	20
Concordia	14	16	14	10	11	14	16	18	20	16	28	33	32	30	26
DeSoto	9	7	9	8	7	10	12	14	13	14	19	19	24	21	20
E. Baton Rouge	6	6	6	6	6	8	9	9	10	9	14	15	14	16	14
E. Carroll	15	12	14	7	17	16	16	13	8	6	31	28	27	16	22
E. Feliciana	7	9	5	9	8	11	11	11	24	16	18	19	16	33	24
Evangeline	8	10	8	10	11	15	9	14	14	12	23	19	23	24	22
Franklin	9	11	9	8	7	19	15	14	16	16	27	25	23	24	22
Grant	9	6	6	9	5	15	14	16	14	15	25	20	22	23	20
Iberia	10	8	9	10	8	10	11	15	11	12	20	19	24	21	20
Iberville	6	6	7	8	7	14	10	11	13	11	20	16	18	21	16
Jackson	6	10	7	8	7	11	14	14	12	9	16	25	22	20	15
Jefferson	6	6	5	7	6	8	9	10	12	9	14	15	15	20	15
Jefferson Davis	7	8	8	6	9	10	12	13	9	12	17	20	21	15	21
Lafayette	5	5	5	5	5	7	8	10	9	9	13	13	15	15	14
Lafourche	6	6	8	6	7	10	10	10	11	11	16	15	18	17	17
LaSalle	11	8	9	7	8	11	13	10	12	10	23	20	19	19	18
Lincoln	6	8	8	7	7	12	10	9	7	13	18	18	17	14	19
Livingston	6	5	6	5	6	12	11	11	11	10	18	16	18	16	17
Madison	12	12	14	10	11	16	14	13	17	13	28	27	27	27	21
Morehouse	13	14	15	10	13	18	16	15	13	15	31	30	30	24	27
Natchitoches	10	10	9	8	9	13	14	15	14	12	22	23	24	21	21
Orleans	10	10	10	9	8	13	13	12	12	12	23	23	22	20	20
Ouachita	9	10	7	8	7	13	13	12	13	11	21	23	19	21	17
Plaquemines	7	10	6	10	8	13	9	11	12	12	20	19	17	21	19
Pointe Coupee	8	7	7	10	8	10	13	12	10	14	17	20	19	19	21
Rapides	8	8	7	7	9	12	12	14	14	12	20	20	21	21	21
Red River	6	10	6	9	11	10	17	13	15	9	17	27	19	24	18
Richland	13	13	14	10	12	14	16	15	14	12	27	29	29	23	23
Sabine	10	9	8	9	6	14	13	16	13	13	23	23	24	22	19
St. Bernard	6	5	6	6	4	10	10	10	11	10	15	15	15	17	14
St. Charles	5	5	7	4	6	9	9	6	9	10	14	14	13	13	15
St. Helena	6	8	8	10	7	9	13	15	17	14	14	20	23	27	20
St. James	7	6	8	7	5	11	10	9	8	9	17	16	18	15	14
St. John	7	7	6	6	7	8	9	11	12	12	15	16	17	18	18
St. Landry	8	9	7	8	9	11	12	12	13	12	19	21	19	22	21
St. Martin	6	8	6	8	8	9	12	12	12	11	15	20	18	20	19
St. Mary	8	8	9	9	8	9	13	14	14	14	17	21	23	23	22
St. Tammany	5	5	5	5	5	7	8	8	6	8	12	12	13	11	12
Tangipahoa	10	9	8	9	10	12	14	14	14	14	23	24	22	23	24
Tensas	8	13	11	12	19	18	16	19	17	14	26	28	31	30	32
Terrebonne	6	7	7	8	9	10	11	11	11	13	16	18	18	20	21
Union	11	13	8	8	10	12	10	13	15	9	23	23	22	22	19
Vermilion	6	6	7	5	6	11	12	12	12	11	17	18	19	18	16
Vernon	4	4	4	4	4	11	11	12	12	13	16	15	16	16	17
Washington	8	12	11	7	9	12	12	19	11	17	20	24	30	18	25
Webster	9	10	8	6	10	11	13	14	11	14	20	23	22	17	23
W. Baton Rouge	5	7	4	10	8	11	7	12	15	12	16	13	16	25	19
W. Carroll	7	7	7	9	5	12	10	13	11	15	18	16	21	20	20
W. Feliciana	5	8	10	7	8	6	10	5	17	9	11	17	15	23	17
Winn	10	10	12	7	10	13	11	13	13	16	23	21	25	19	26

*May not equal sum of "15-17 Years" and "18-19 Years" due to rounding

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1997</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5.8 lbs.)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Louisiana	65947	75.4	9.8	18.5
White	37438	84.3	6.7	13.4
Black	27115	63.3	14.1	26.0
Other	1394	74.4	7.1	11.0
Acadia	972	59.6	8.8	22.2
White	711	68.5	6.1	18.8
Black	258	34.9	15.8	31.8
Other	3	66.7	0.0	0.0
Allen	323	67.2	10.5	20.7
White	251	70.1	8.9	17.9
Black	66	53.1	16.5	31.8
Other	6	100.0	5.7	16.7
Ascension	1166	83.0	8.5	13.6
White	863	88.1	6.8	10.8
Black	300	68.9	13.1	22.0
Other	3	33.3	0.0	0.0
Assumption	298	82.7	8.4	23.2
White	184	83.5	5.1	16.8
Black	114	81.4	12.7	33.3
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Avoyelles	585	69.7	9.9	22.7
White	369	80.0	7.8	19.2
Black	213	51.9	13.8	29.1
Other	3	66.7	6.3	0.0
Beauregard	479	70.7	7.8	20.0
White	400	77.0	7.2	18.5
Black	71	39.1	11.5	31.0
Other	8	37.5	5.7	0.0
Bienville	217	64.5	11.6	24.4
White	120	81.2	8.5	20.8
Black	96	44.1	14.9	29.2
Other	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bossier	1382	76.3	8.8	17.3
White	968	84.2	6.9	13.6
Black	381	55.4	13.8	27.0
Other	33	84.9	6.1	12.1
Caddo	3690	68.0	11.6	19.5
White	1592	85.6	7.1	11.3
Black	2048	54.2	15.5	26.1
Other	50	71.4	10.4	10.0
Calcasieu	2777	81.6	9.7	18.9
White	1913	86.3	7.3	15.0
Black	836	70.9	15.1	28.5
Other	28	75.0	12.2	7.1
Caldwell	138	79.0	6.3	21.7
White	107	81.3	4.9	23.4
Black	30	70.0	12.1	16.7
Other	1	100.0	0.0	0.0

*According to modified Kessner index



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1997</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5.8 lbs.)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Cameron	107	84.0	9.5	22.4
White	100	85.9	8.8	24.0
Black	6	50.0	21.2	0.0
Other	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Catahoula	136	73.3	9.3	26.5
White	96	80.0	6.4	18.8
Black	40	57.5	14.3	45.0
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Claiborne	214	61.0	12.4	20.1
White	101	77.3	8.2	13.9
Black	111	46.0	15.2	26.1
Other	2	100.0	16.7	0.0
Concordia	328	65.7	10.2	26.8
White	154	84.2	6.4	18.8
Black	172	49.1	14.0	34.3
Other	2	50.0	0.0	0.0
DeSoto	349	68.1	10.7	20.9
White	186	77.4	6.8	14.0
Black	163	57.4	13.9	28.8
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
E. Baton Rouge	6072	75.4	10.4	15.0
White	2870	90.0	6.1	7.5
Black	3045	61.8	15.0	22.7
Other	157	73.9	8.0	3.2
E. Carroll	144	60.3	10.0	22.9
White	30	70.0	3.9	6.7
Black	114	57.7	11.9	27.2
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
E. Feliciana	307	70.8	9.6	23.8
White	158	84.1	7.4	17.7
Black	147	57.5	12.1	30.6
Other	2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Evangeline	585	69.0	10.9	23.1
White	375	79.8	7.3	16.8
Black	208	49.5	16.9	34.6
Other	2	50.0	16.7	0.0
Franklin	288	70.3	9.3	22.6
White	156	82.6	5.7	17.9
Black	131	55.4	13.4	28.2
Other	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Grant	262	79.5	8.3	20.2
White	230	83.3	7.8	20.0
Black	31	53.3	11.1	19.4
Other	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Iberia	1225	61.1	9.4	20.3
White	684	74.6	6.7	15.2
Black	515	44.0	12.8	26.6
Other	26	42.3	9.6	30.8

*According to modified Kessner index



Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1997				
Parish	Total Births	Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*	Percent Low Weight Births (<5.8 lbs.)	% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years
Iberville	444	78.1	10.8	17.6
White	201	93.9	7.1	11.4
Black	243	65.3	13.6	22.6
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jackson	209	57.8	8.5	15.3
White	138	68.2	6.4	10.9
Black	70	37.1	12.6	24.3
Other	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Jefferson	6327	83.6	8.4	15.1
White	4008	89.4	6.6	11.5
Black	1964	72.3	12.7	23.4
Other	355	80.1	6.8	9.6
Jefferson Davis	515	62.6	8.6	21.6
White	401	68.4	7.0	19.2
Black	106	41.0	13.7	31.1
Other	8	62.5	11.8	12.5
Lafayette	2871	80.3	9.0	14.1
White	1959	86.6	6.1	9.8
Black	864	66.4	15.1	24.1
Other	48	75.0	9.4	8.3
Lafourche	1181	78.2	8.4	17.5
White	909	79.4	7.0	15.1
Black	225	74.3	13.8	27.1
Other	47	73.9	5.6	19.1
LaSalle	190	71.1	8.0	18.4
White	168	77.0	8.0	16.7
Black	22	27.3	8.5	31.8
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	534	49.2	9.6	19.7
White	255	63.8	6.2	12.2
Black	276	36.0	12.9	26.8
Other	3	0.0	6.7	0.0
Livingston	1330	85.2	8.4	16.7
White	1232	86.6	7.6	16.4
Black	91	65.6	17.1	20.9
Other	7	85.7	5.3	14.3
Madison	224	55.5	10.9	23.2
White	55	83.3	6.3	16.4
Black	169	46.4	12.6	25.4
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Morehouse	499	49.8	10.9	27.7
White	220	64.8	6.3	18.6
Black	279	37.7	14.6	34.8
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Natchitoches	593	68.9	9.6	21.2
White	309	81.6	6.6	14.9
Black	278	55.1	12.4	28.1
Other	6	66.7	4.8	33.3

*According to modified Kessner index



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1997</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5.8 lbs.)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Orleans	7734	74.6	12.3	20.4
White	1419	89.3	6.3	5.1
Black	6098	71.0	13.8	24.5
Other	217	81.4	6.1	4.6
Ouachita	2217	77.1	9.3	17.9
White	1191	87.4	5.8	10.9
Black	1014	64.8	13.4	26.2
Other	12	91.7	10.8	0.0
Plaquemines	425	74.8	8.4	19.5
White	272	82.0	6.9	15.4
Black	130	63.5	12.7	30.0
Other	23	52.2	2.8	8.7
Pointe Coupee	331	75.9	9.9	21.5
White	161	86.6	5.3	12.4
Black	170	65.9	14.8	30.0
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rapides	1852	74.5	9.8	21.0
White	1085	83.1	7.0	15.4
Black	746	61.9	14.1	29.2
Other	21	76.2	7.8	14.3
Red River	134	64.7	11.1	20.1
White	67	88.1	7.8	13.4
Black	65	40.6	14.5	27.7
Other	2	50.0	0.0	0.0
Richland	324	72.8	12.2	24.1
White	166	81.5	7.2	13.9
Black	157	63.7	16.9	35.0
Other	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Sabine	331	73.1	8.2	19.0
White	232	79.3	6.7	20.3
Black	85	55.3	12.3	15.3
Other	14	78.6	6.5	21.4
St. Bernard	884	89.9	8.0	13.7
White	784	92.1	7.0	13.3
Black	75	71.2	17.9	22.7
Other	25	76.0	9.8	0.0
St. Charles	716	82.6	8.9	15.5
White	489	87.6	6.0	10.8
Black	222	71.6	14.7	26.1
Other	5	80.0	6.5	0.0
St. Helena	101	86.9	9.8	20.8
White	48	89.4	7.2	16.7
Black	53	84.6	12.0	24.5
Other	0	0.0	20.0	0.0
St. James	303	63.3	10.8	14.2
White	132	73.3	5.9	3.8
Black	171	55.6	14.1	22.2
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*According to modified Kessner index



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1997</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5.8 lbs.)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
St. John	674	65.1	9.2	18.5
White	321	78.0	6.8	11.5
Black	349	53.9	11.8	25.2
Other	4	0.0	6.9	0.0
St. Landry	1340	63.6	10.9	21.0
White	672	76.5	7.1	15.9
Black	664	50.8	14.8	26.1
Other	4	25.0	15.8	50.0
St. Martin	755	73.2	10.2	19.7
White	429	81.1	7.0	15.6
Black	316	62.5	14.3	25.6
Other	10	70.0	15.9	10.0
St. Mary	887	75.7	9.2	22.1
White	504	84.3	6.3	19.2
Black	364	64.0	13.8	26.6
Other	19	73.7	5.1	10.5
St. Tammany	2532	85.8	7.1	12.4
White	2144	88.5	6.1	9.9
Black	361	70.0	12.9	27.7
Other	27	77.8	5.7	7.4
Tangipahoa	1652	87.5	10.8	24.8
White	964	90.1	6.9	17.4
Black	678	83.9	16.3	35.3
Other	10	80.0	13.2	20.0
Tensas	85	60.7	9.1	32.9
White	30	93.3	4.4	16.7
Black	55	42.6	12.0	41.8
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Terrebonne	1701	73.4	8.6	21.8
White	1171	74.3	7.2	18.9
Black	405	74.6	13.5	26.4
Other	125	61.6	6.4	34.4
Union	306	66.7	10.4	19.6
White	207	74.2	7.8	17.4
Black	97	50.5	15.3	24.7
Other	2	50.0	20.0	0.0
Vermilion	710	84.0	7.8	16.5
White	542	88.1	5.9	16.1
Black	150	69.8	13.9	19.3
Other	18	77.8	9.7	5.6
Vernon	962	77.7	7.1	17.5
White	730	78.6	6.2	17.3
Black	187	74.2	10.5	19.8
Other	45	77.8	5.1	11.1
Washington	662	74.1	9.6	25.7
White	421	81.4	7.0	22.1
Black	240	61.3	13.8	32.1
Other	1	0.0	0.0	0.0

*According to modified Kessner index



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1997</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5.8 lbs.)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Webster	555	68.9	11.0	23.4
White	311	83.4	6.8	18.0
Black	241	49.6	16.3	30.7
Other	3	100.0	5.3	0.0
W. Baton Rouge	344	78.6	9.0	20.1
White	185	89.1	5.2	14.1
Black	158	66.3	13.9	26.6
Other	1	100.0	20.0	100.0
W. Carroll	129	58.6	8.9	20.2
White	96	65.6	8.6	20.8
Black	33	37.5	9.7	18.2
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
W. Feliciana	109	71.3	7.4	17.4
White	59	83.1	2.6	3.4
Black	50	57.1	12.5	34.0
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Winn	231	57.4	9.4	26.4
White	133	68.7	5.7	20.3
Black	98	41.3	15.3	34.7
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*According to modified Kessner index

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

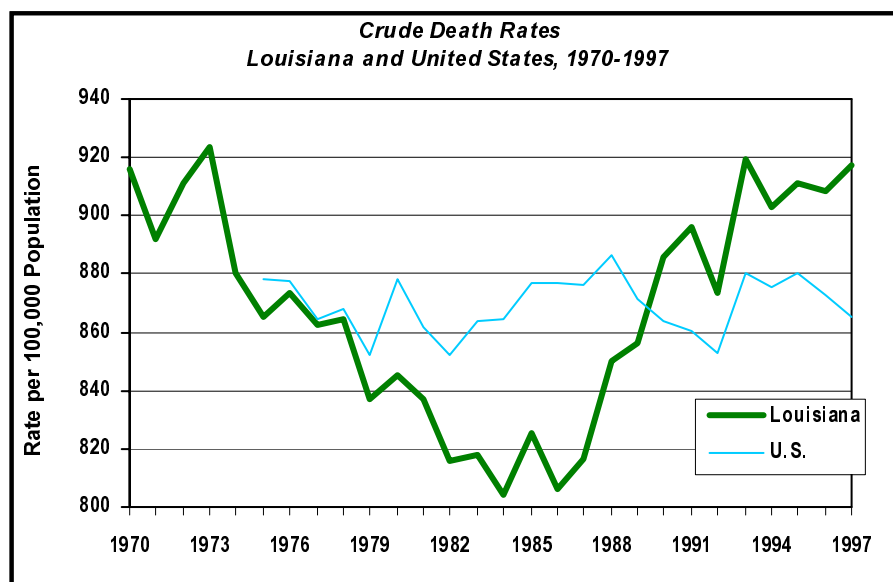


C. DEATHS

Death Counts and Mortality Rates (Crude and Age-Adjusted)

There were 39,917 deaths among Louisiana residents in 1997, representing a slight increase from 39,511 deaths in 1996. Of total deaths, there were approximately equal numbers of males (50.8%) and females (49.2%). In terms of race, 1997 deaths included 27,312 white, 12,405 African-American, and 200 other race deaths. On 16 death certificates, race was not recorded. Of total resident deaths, 19.0%, 47.5%, and 21.6% occurred among those aged 45-64 years, 65-84 years, and 85 years and older, respectively. Age information was not recorded in 28 deaths.

Crude death rates are useful for examining the overall mortality risk of an area or population group, since they utilize total population and do not account for differences in age distributions. In Louisiana, the crude death rate slightly increased from 908.2 per 100,000 population in 1996 to 917.3 in 1997. In comparison, the United States rate was 872.5 in 1996 and 864.9 in 1997. In Louisiana the crude death rate has been steadily increasing since the mid-1980s. In 1990 the crude death rate in Louisiana leapt beyond the United States rate and has maintained a wide margin ever since.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary US 1997 data)

Crude (or unadjusted) death rates give us an estimate of the overall mortality for a population, because they measure deaths in the population as a whole. Crude rates, however, ignore idiosyncrasies in the composition of a population, such as the unusually large number of elderly people who live in parts of Florida. Population idiosyncrasies like this can cause an increase in the crude death rate because of the large number of people in the population who are at high risk of dying because of advancing age.

Adjusted rates (also called standardized rates) are derived from statistical procedures that adjust for differences in population composition, such as age, race, or gender, which can increase or decrease the likelihood of death in one or more of the populations being considered. Age is the most common factor for which adjustment is done, since it is the most significant characteristic related to death and disease.



Because age-adjusted death rates control for the variations in death rates among age groups, they make comparisons between age groups more meaningful. However, the age-adjusted mortality measure is not a true estimation of the death rate, as the crude mortality measure is, and it should not be used in comparisons with crude mortality rates. Differences seen in age-adjusted rates in two different populations may reflect an actual difference in death rates in the two populations, or may be due to other factors, such as race or gender, which were not taken into account when the adjustments for age were made.

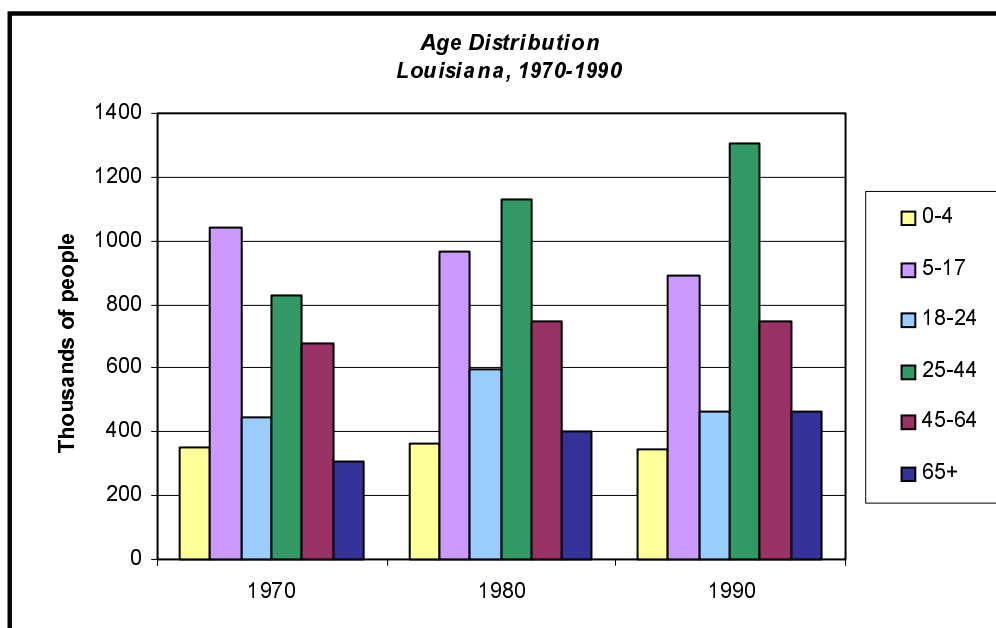
In the table below, crude and age-adjusted mortality rates are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. (Note: Although Louisiana's final 1997 rates are available and are reported in this document, National Center for Health Statistics preliminary 1997 data for all states have been used in the table below to permit comparison with surrounding states.) While all except Texas's rate are well above the national figure, Louisiana's crude mortality rate lies within the range of the neighboring state rates.

Mortality Rates*		
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and US, 1997		
State	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Alabama	994.9	564.1
Arkansas	1,103.90	572.1
Louisiana	919.7	582.9
Mississippi	1,007.20	609.7
Texas	734.3	489.9
United States	864.9	478.1

*Rates per 100,000

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997 data)

The difference between Louisiana's crude death rate and the United States rate may be affected by the age distribution of the population. The graph below demonstrates how age distributions of populations change over time, and highlights the importance of using age-adjusted rates to make comparisons among populations.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



The increase in the crude death rate seen in Louisiana since the mid-1980's is attributable at least in part to the age distribution of the population given in the previous figure. The large 5-17 year old population in 1970 has become older over time and constituted a large 25-44 year old population in 1990. Simply stated, the population of Louisiana in 1990 was older than the state population was in 1970.

As expected, the greatest proportion of deaths occurred in those of the 65-84 and the 85 and older age groups. Death rates for males exceeded those for females in the younger and middle age groups, and were therefore well below female rates in the eldest age group.

Number of Deaths by Age Group and Gender Louisiana, 1997								
Gender	Age Group							
	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-84	85+	Total
Male	414	106	669	1,919	4,550	9,814	2,788	20,260
Female	334	83	195	995	3,054	9,151	5,817	19,629
Total	748	189	864	2,914	7,604	18,965	8,605	39,889

*Unknown ages excluded

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Number of Deaths by Age Group and Parish Louisiana, 1997																
Parish	Total	Rate*	Age in Years													
			Less than 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	UNK
Louisiana	39,917	9.2	629	119	88	101	378	486	1,069	1,845	2,839	4,765	8,352	10,613	8,605	28
Acadia	603	10.5	14	3	1	5	5	12	12	24	48	76	117	168	118	0
Allen	231	9.6	0	1	0	2	1	0	5	7	16	27	54	65	53	0
Ascension	467	6.6	5	2	0	1	8	7	11	23	50	53	99	111	97	0
Assumption	196	8.6	2	0	0	0	3	3	4	9	18	20	43	49	45	0
Avoyelles	494	12.0	3	2	1	1	3	1	13	11	28	61	106	144	119	0
Beauregard	285	9.1	3	0	1	0	5	2	0	12	18	40	69	81	54	0
Bienville	229	14.6	2	1	0	0	2	0	4	10	11	28	36	68	67	0
Bossier	678	7.2	19	3	1	2	5	6	19	24	38	95	152	192	122	0
Caddo	2,620	10.7	47	9	3	9	21	20	56	106	171	270	500	722	685	1
Calcasieu	1,628	9.1	26	5	4	8	19	17	33	54	94	209	380	431	348	0
Caldwell	160	15.7	2	0	0	0	1	1	9	6	7	18	36	42	38	0
Cameron	70	7.6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	14	14	18	14	0
Catahoula	120	11.1	4	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	6	14	32	36	20	0
Claiborne	207	12.1	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	3	9	23	34	61	67	0
Concordia	251	12.1	4	1	0	0	1	1	2	8	14	36	68	66	50	0
DeSoto	288	11.3	2	2	0	0	0	4	4	16	17	35	61	79	68	0
E. Baton Rouge	3,055	7.7	69	10	8	5	35	46	94	179	271	316	614	802	605	1
E. Carroll	101	10.9	1	2	1	0	2	3	3	4	7	11	24	21	21	1
E. Feliciana	216	10.4	2	2	1	0	1	4	4	14	12	26	53	51	45	1
Evangeline	360	10.5	6	2	1	1	4	1	9	15	16	48	77	93	87	0
Franklin	267	12.0	2	0	0	0	1	1	7	8	16	30	56	71	75	0
Grant	191	10.2	2	0	1	0	1	2	5	8	4	24	39	52	52	1
Iberia	665	9.3	15	4	3	0	6	4	28	34	47	80	135	169	140	0
Iberville	272	8.7	5	1	0	1	5	1	8	13	14	36	58	84	45	1



Number of Deaths by Age Group and Parish Louisiana, 1997																
Parish	Total	Rate*	Age in Years													
			Less than 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	UNK
Jackson	200	12.9	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	9	8	23	35	66	52	0
Jefferson	3,900	8.6	52	13	8	8	22	42	104	203	283	426	861	1090	786	2
Jefferson Davis	344	10.9	5	0	0	0	3	4	3	13	14	36	86	96	84	0
Lafayette	1,232	6.8	25	4	0	5	10	15	36	57	100	170	252	310	248	0
Lafourche	649	7.4	10	2	1	0	6	10	16	26	46	78	146	181	127	0
LaSalle	172	12.2	0	2	0	0	2	1	3	9	6	23	33	49	43	1
Lincoln	315	7.4	4	0	0	0	2	3	5	10	18	40	70	84	79	0
Livingston	607	7.3	8	2	0	3	10	6	20	27	59	90	129	145	108	0
Madison	138	10.3	3	2	0	1	0	2	3	6	8	16	28	39	30	0
Morehouse	390	12.3	5	0	1	0	3	2	8	16	31	32	89	104	99	0
Natchitoches	398	10.5	5	0	0	0	3	3	5	14	40	44	76	115	92	1
Orleans	5,100	10.8	95	8	14	13	63	107	197	329	411	560	944	1223	1134	2
Ouachita	1,312	8.9	18	3	2	7	13	14	36	61	76	156	260	370	296	0
Plaquemines	202	7.8	5	0	0	3	3	1	9	12	19	37	44	47	22	0
Pointe Coupee	227	9.6	2	1	2	0	4	4	8	6	16	24	44	65	50	1
Rapides	1,258	9.8	18	2	3	3	12	17	28	45	81	146	253	355	293	2
Red River	121	12.3	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	8	11	28	36	30	0
Richland	255	12.5	2	0	2	0	2	2	7	12	14	24	55	69	66	0
Sabine	288	12.1	6	0	2	0	0	5	11	6	12	45	53	68	80	0
St. Bernard	699	10.4	3	0	3	2	4	7	17	28	49	102	193	192	98	1
St. Charles	318	6.7	4	0	2	1	1	5	9	23	29	42	72	74	56	0
St. Helena	92	9.5	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	9	10	15	20	28	0
St. James	169	7.8	3	1	0	2	0	3	7	8	12	25	39	39	30	0
St. John	303	7.2	8	0	2	1	2	2	8	14	31	43	64	74	54	0
St. Landry	856	10.4	15	2	2	3	6	10	21	27	54	106	178	247	184	1
St. Martin	369	7.9	3	6	1	0	5	5	19	14	28	56	74	99	59	0
St. Mary	488	8.5	5	1	1	1	4	2	17	27	44	56	111	119	100	0
St. Tammany	1,287	7.1	14	5	6	1	7	23	15	61	101	161	311	331	251	0
Tangipahoa	926	9.7	14	6	1	5	7	6	21	43	56	117	173	263	214	0
Tensas	78	11.6	1	0	1	1	3	2	1	1	5	9	19	25	9	0
Terrebonne	779	7.6	18	4	2	0	15	11	21	34	55	122	183	177	136	1
Union	276	12.7	6	1	0	0	2	1	3	6	21	38	47	75	76	0
Vermilion	503	9.8	7	1	2	0	4	5	9	17	26	63	104	144	120	1
Vernon	354	7.5	7	1	0	0	8	8	11	19	28	50	79	86	57	0
Washington	509	11.6	5	0	2	2	7	4	16	19	35	58	109	158	93	1
Webster	483	11.3	5	0	1	0	2	2	9	12	22	51	103	150	126	0
W. Baton Rouge	189	9.2	4	0	0	0	2	2	9	13	9	31	42	36	41	0
W. Carroll	149	12.2	0	1	0	0	2	1	5	1	12	18	27	42	40	0
W. Feliciana	80	5.9	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	7	5	9	15	16	21	0
Winn	226	13.1	1	1	1	2	2	1	7	8	16	22	50	57	58	0

*Rate per 1000 population

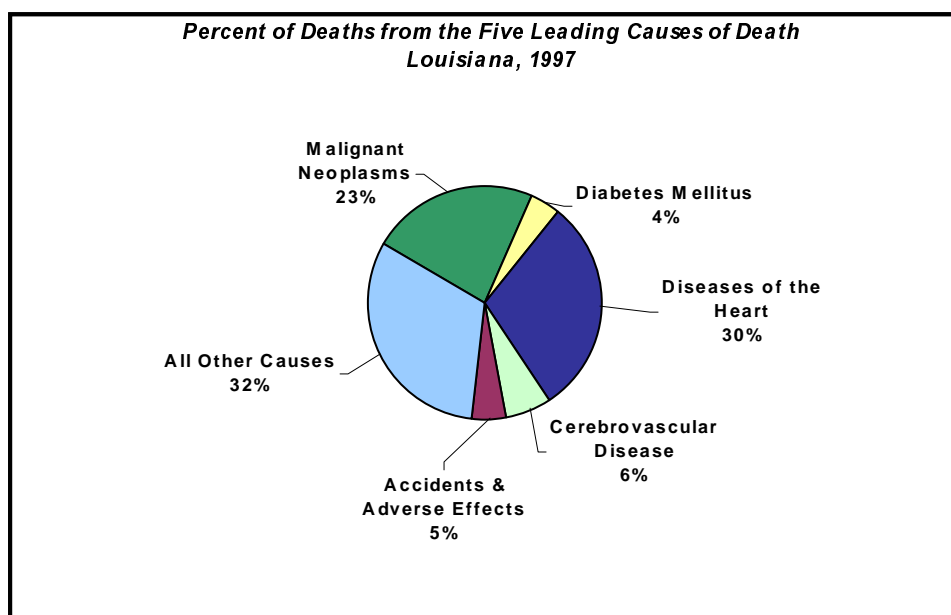
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



The age-adjusted death rate due to all causes for Louisiana in 1997 was 580.7 per 100,000 population. In comparison with the United States and other states, using preliminary 1997 data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, Louisiana's age-adjusted death rate (582.9 per 100,000) is the second highest in the nation, and is markedly higher than that of the United States as a whole (478.1 per 100,000). Louisiana belongs to a group of southern states (Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) that traditionally has higher age-adjusted death rates for stroke, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and all-cause mortality.

Leading Causes of Death

Of the total 39,917 deaths to Louisiana residents in 1997, the leading causes of death were (in order) diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasms (cancer), cerebrovascular disease (stroke), accidents & adverse effects, and diabetes, as displayed in the figure below. Sixty-eight percent of all deaths in Louisiana in 1997 are attributable to these five causes.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

The top three causes, diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasms, and cerebrovascular disease, together account for 59% of total deaths. Little variation was observed in the rates compared with 1996. In fact, these top four causes have consistently been the leading causes of death in Louisiana for the past twenty years (see following tables), though the rankings may have changed. The fifth-ranked cause has varied among diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and influenza and pneumonia. The three leading causes of death in Louisiana are identical to those of the nation as a whole. However, diabetes is a more serious problem in the state (5th) than on the national level (7th), and accidents are ranked higher in Louisiana (4th) than nationally (5th). COPD nationally is ranked higher (4th) than in Louisiana (6th).

While diseases of the heart have been the number one cause of death in Louisiana for many years, the 1997 crude death rate continues the dramatic downward trend over the past two decades in both Louisiana and the United States as a whole. Furthermore, malignant neoplasms, cerebrovascular diseases, and accidents rates also have steadily declined.



When we look beyond the top five causes of death in Louisiana in 1997, we find COPD, pneumonia and influenza; homicide and legal intervention; nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis; and septicemia rounding out the top ten causes of death in the state. On the national level, the 1997 preliminary (CDC) top ten causes do not include homicide & legal intervention or septicemia, but do include suicide and chronic liver disease & cirrhosis.

The age-adjusted death rates for the leading causes of death in Louisiana were determined by ranking the crude death rates from highest to lowest and then adjusting these rates (in the same order) for age.

The top five cause-specific, age-adjusted death rates for Louisiana in 1997 were:

- Diseases of the heart
- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Accidents and adverse effects
- Diabetes mellitus

In comparing the ten most common causes of death in Louisiana with those of the United States as a whole, deaths from accidents/adverse effects, diabetes mellitus and homicide ranked higher in Louisiana than in the nation; deaths from COPD, pneumonia, HIV infection, suicide, and chronic liver disease/cirrhosis ranked lower. However, almost all of Louisiana's ten age-adjusted leading causes of death are higher than in the United States, COPD and pneumonia being the exceptions.

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates* for the Top Ten Causes of Death Louisiana and United States, 1997					
Louisiana			United States		
Rank	Cause of Death	Age-Adjusted Death Rate	Rank	Cause of Death	Age-Adjusted Death Rate
-	All Causes		-	All Causes	
1	Diseases of the Heart	153.3	1	Diseases of the Heart	129.9
2	Malignant Neoplasms	146.3	2	Malignant Neoplasms	125.0
3	Cerebrovascular Disease	30.0	3	Cerebrovascular Disease	25.9
4	Accidents & Adverse Effects	38.9	4	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	21.4
5	Diabetes Mellitus	24.3	5	Accidents & Adverse Effects	28.9
6	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	33.8	6	Pneumonia & Influenza	13.2
7	Pneumonia & Influenza	12.2	7	Diabetes Mellitus	13.4
8	Homicide & Legal Intervention	16.9	8	Suicide	10.3
9	Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, & Nephrosis	7.2	9	Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, & Nephrosis	4.5
10	Septicemia	7.0	10	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	7.2

*Rates per 100,000 population

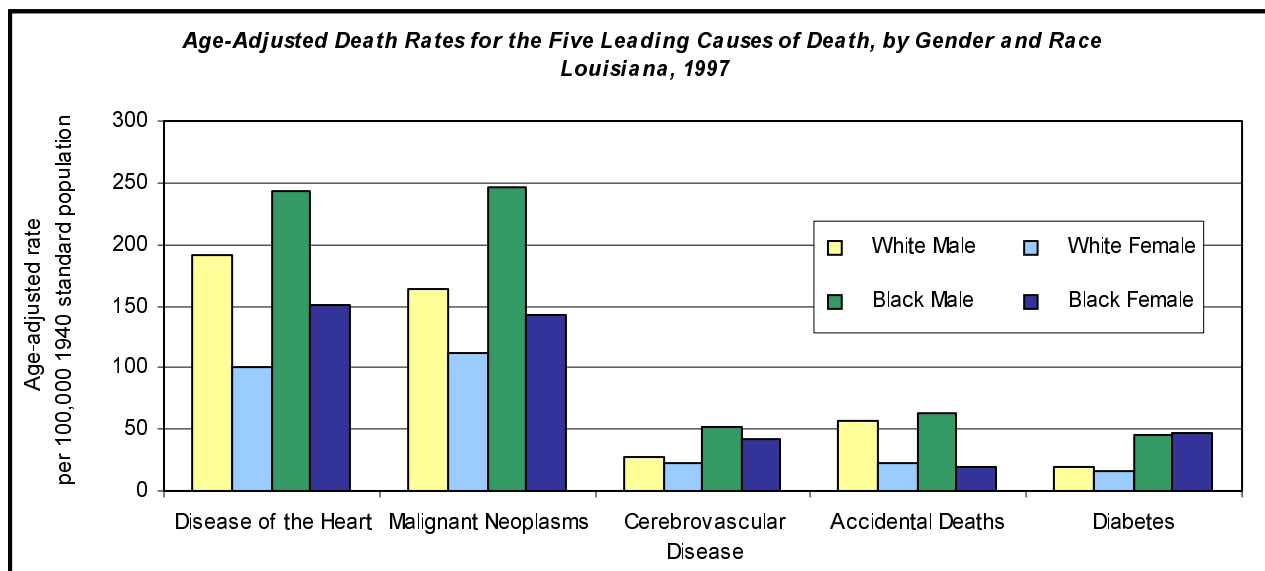
Source: Louisiana Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics



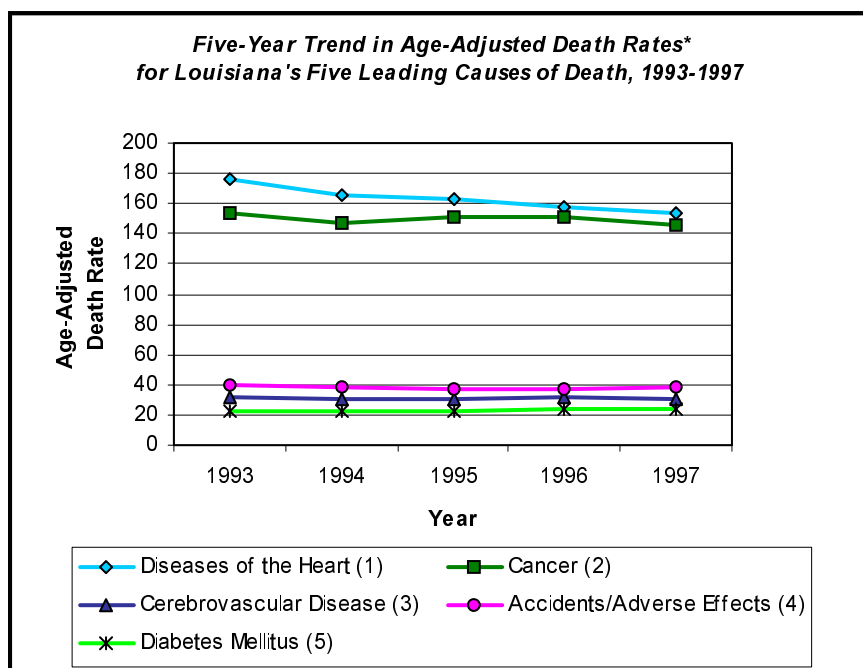
The following chart illustrates the benefits of using age-adjusted mortality rates when comparing mortality in different population groups. This chart displays age-adjusted mortality rates for the five leading causes of death in Louisiana in 1997. This adjustment allows for direct comparison of all race-gender groups.

The age-adjusted rates show that males, particularly African-American males, are at higher risk than females for death from heart disease, cancer, and accidents. African-Americans are at higher risk than whites for death from diabetes.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

The following graph displays overall age-adjusted mortality rates for Louisiana's major causes of death over the past five years. With the exception of heart disease deaths, little has changed since 1993.



*Rates per 100,000 population

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



The following table lists age-adjusted mortality rates for the four major race-gender groups over the last five years.

Age-Adjusted Death Rates* for Selected Causes of Mortality, by Race and Gender					
Louisiana, 1993-1997					
Cause of Death/Race/Gender	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Diseases of the Heart	175.9	165.5	163.2	157.5	153.3
White Male	214.1	203.3	200.7	198.1	191.4
White Female	113.4	108.6	103.5	103.8	101.1
Black Male	297.0	263.7	271.6	248.1	243.2
Black Female	187.1	171.5	172.1	157.0	150.9
Cerebrovascular Diseases	31.6	30.4	31.1	32.2	30.0
White Male	28.1	27.8	28.8	29.9	27.4
White Female	22.7	22.2	24.9	24.3	22.2
Black Male	60.9	55.8	54.0	57.6	51.2
Black Female	43.8	42.5	38.3	42.2	42.0
Malignant Neoplasm	153.7	147.4	151.2	151.1	146.3
White Male	177.8	173.5	171.4	177.6	163.6
White Female	114.2	112.5	116.7	112.2	112.7
Black Male	277.8	247.9	258.5	256.7	245.7
Black Female	138.4	131.4	142.8	142.1	143.2
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	20.2	20.7	20.1	20.1	19.8
White Male	28.2	29.2	25.4	27.2	26.8
White Female	16.9	17.2	17.6	17.1	17.0
Black Male	25.3	25.8	28.9	26.7	25.0
Black Female	11.9	11.1	12.1	11.3	10.3
Human Immunodeficiency Virus	14.4	14.8	16.7	13.8	9.0
White Male	22.3	22.1	20.6	14.2	6.0
White Female	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.5	0.5
Black Male	39.7	40.4	55.2	48.6	37.9
Black Female	6.4	6.9	12.0	12.6	9.8
Accidental Deaths	39.6	38.0	37.6	37.7	38.9
White Male	55.4	55.5	54.8	53.0	56.0
White Female	20.3	20.7	21.3	20.1	22.6
Black Male	73.5	64.4	61.9	69.9	62.5
Black Female	22.4	20.8	20.8	18.6	19.6
Homicide	22.3	22.0	18.5	19.4	16.9
White Male	9.3	9.7	8.0	8.6	8.2
White Female	4.4	2.7	2.2	3.5	3.6
Black Male	99.2	101.4	81.8	82.5	68.2
Black Female	15.3	13.9	11.8	14.2	12.7
Suicide	12.0	12.3	11.8	12.0	11.5
White Male	23.0	22.3	21.8	22.9	21.5
White Female	5.5	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.5
Black Male	13.6	13.5	13.9	13.7	11.7
Black Female	2.1	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.7
Pneumonia and Influenza	12.2	12.0	11.4	11.5	12.2
White Male	15.5	13.9	13.6	13.9	14.5
White Female	9.1	9.1	8.8	9.4	9.3
Black Male	17.2	22.1	17.3	19.0	20.1
Black Female	11.9	10.6	11.2	8.4	10.3
Diabetes	22.6	22.3	22.7	24.2	24.3
White Male	16.8	16.9	16.9	18.8	18.9
White Female	15.5	15.2	15.1	16.2	15.4
Black Male	40.6	39.6	44.9	42.0	46.2
Black Female	44.1	42.7	44.1	46.9	46.7

*Rates per 100,000 population

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Infant Deaths

Overview

Infant mortality encompasses all deaths that occur within the first year of life and excludes fetal deaths (miscarriages and abortions). This measure can be a significant predictor of the health status of a particular area, population, or nation, since it is associated with many factors, such as socioeconomic status and access to health care.

There are several measures used to describe mortality in this age group. While infant mortality measures deaths during the first year, neonatal mortality describes deaths occurring through the first 27 days. Other measures include post-neonatal mortality, which measures deaths occurring from 28 days to one year, hebdomadal mortality, which is limited to the first seven days, and perinatal mortality, which measures deaths occurring late in gestation and after birth.

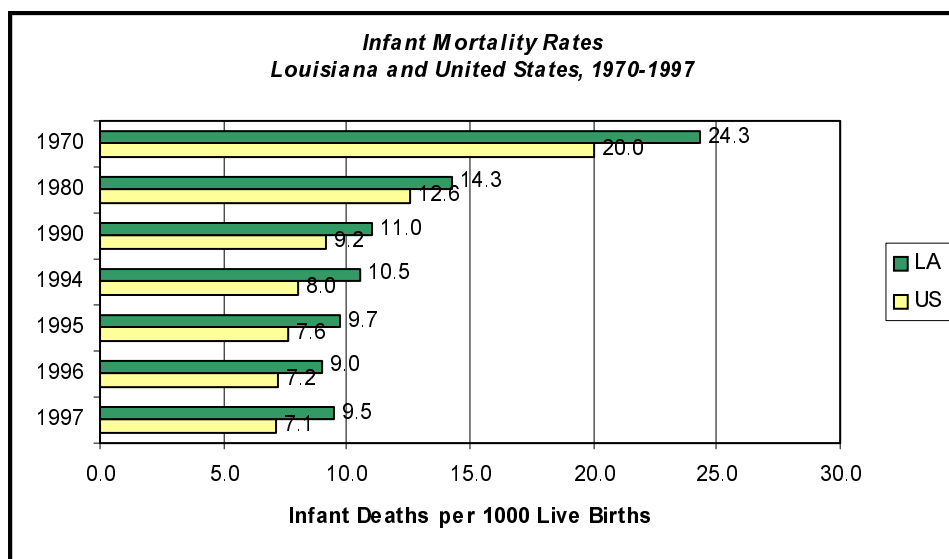
Infant Mortality Rates* by Race of Child Louisiana, 1997						
Race	Number of Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Post-Neonatal Mortality Rate	Hebdomadal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
Total	629	9.5	6.2	3.3	4.9	12.8
White	254	6.8	4.4	2.4	3.2	9.3
Black	370	13.6	8.9	4.7	7.3	17.7
Other	5	3.6	2.9	0.7	2.9	10.0

*All rates, except perinatal, are per 1000 live births

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is defined as death during the first year of life. This measure excludes fetal deaths (abortions and miscarriages). In 1997 in the state of Louisiana, there were 629 deaths to children under one year of age. The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths within the first year of life per 1000 live births. As shown in the figure below, the infant mortality rate has been dropping steadily in the past several decades, with the greatest change observed between 1970 and 1980—a 41% reduction. Although the rate rose between 1996 and 1997, it has seen an overall decline in the past few years—from 10.5 deaths per 1000 live births in 1994 to 9.5 in 1997.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics



While the trend in Louisiana reflects a decline in infant mortality rates over the past several decades, the rate is still high compared with the national infant mortality rate. The state mortality rate has been at least 20% greater than the national rate since 1992. In 1995, the United States rate was 7.6 deaths per 1000 live births, and in 1997 the national rate was 7.1. By international standards, even this national rate is high. In 1993, 24 other countries' infant mortality rates were lower than the United States.¹⁴

There are geographic variations in infant mortality as well. As shown in the parish-level tables that follow this section, rates range from 5.7 to 17.6, with the rate for Morehouse parish being three times the infant mortality rate in Catahoula.

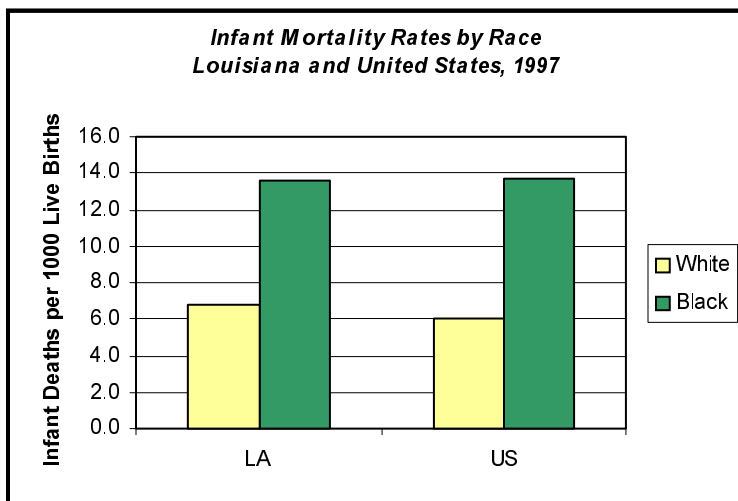
In the table below, infant mortality rates are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. (Note: Although Louisiana's final 1997 rate is available and is reported in this document, National Center for Health Statistics preliminary 1997 data for all states have been used in the table below to permit comparison with surrounding states.) While all except Texas' rate are well above the national figure, Louisiana's infant mortality rate lies in the middle of the spectrum of the neighboring state rates.

Infant Mortality Rates*	
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and the United States, 1997	
Alabama	9.3
Arkansas	8.4
Louisiana	9.0
Mississippi	10.9
Texas	6.0
United States	7.0

*Rate per 1,000 live births

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1997)

Infant mortality rates differ substantially by race. Though rates of infant death are decreasing across racial groups, children born to African-American mothers tend to have higher infant mortality rates than those born to white mothers. It is important to note that starting in 1989, the race of the mother is used for analyses instead of the race of the child, so race-specific infant mortality rates prior to 1989 are not comparable with more current rates. In 1997, there were 254 white, 370 African-American, and 5 other race deaths in Louisiana. The infant mortality rates were 6.8, 13.6, and 3.6 deaths per 1000 race-specific live births respectively. The overall infant mortality rate for African-Americans is double that of whites.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics

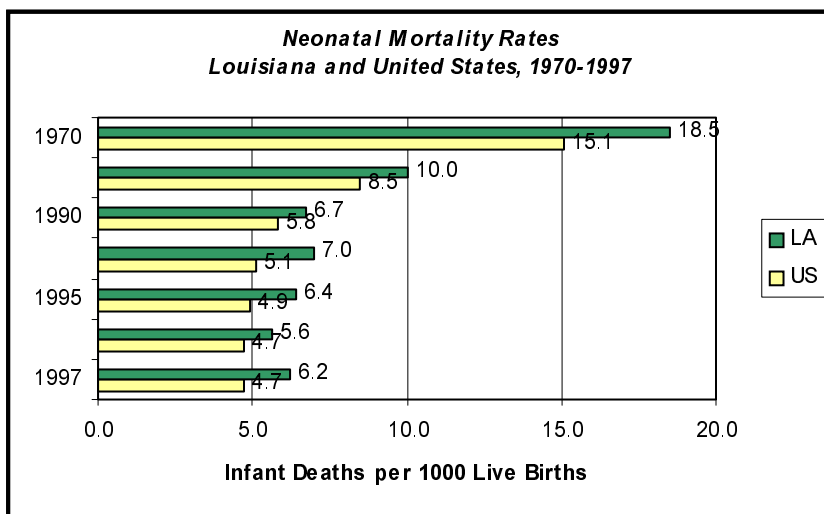
¹⁴ National Center for Health Statistics. *Health, United States 1996-1997 and Injury Chartbook*. Hyattsville, Maryland, 1997.



Neonatal Mortality

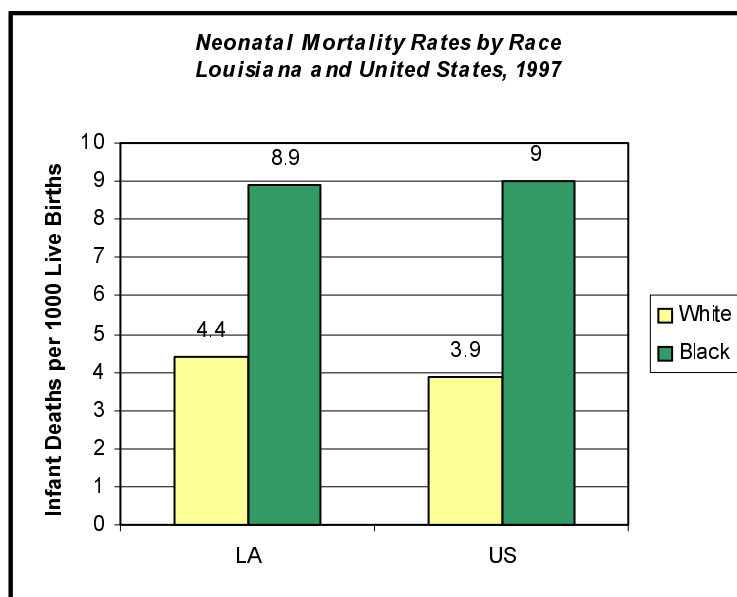
Neonatal mortality represents the period from birth through the first 27 days of life, and the neonatal mortality rate is calculated as the number of deaths during this period per 1000 live births. In 1997, 410 neonatal deaths accounted for 65% of total infant deaths. The overall neonatal mortality rate was 6.2 per 1000. This is an increase from 1996, when the rate was 5.6 per 1000.

Displayed in the figure below is the pattern of neonatal mortality in Louisiana and the United States. The state rate has been decreasing, though it is still higher than the national rate.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics

Racial disparity is still observed; Louisiana's 1997 neonatal mortality rate for whites was 4.4 per 1000, while the rate for African-Americans was twice as high at 8.9 per 1000. While Louisiana's overall rate is higher than the national rate, the state's race-specific rates mirror those of the United States, with white rates slightly higher in Louisiana than in the rest of the country.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics



<i>Infant Mortality by Parish and Race of Mother Louisiana, 1993-1997</i>		
<i>Parish / Race</i>	<i>1997 Number of Infant Deaths</i>	<i>1993-1997 Infant Mortality Rate*</i>
Louisiana	629	9.9
White	254	6.7
Black	370	14.7
Other	5	3.1
Acadia	14	14.6
White	10	11.0
Black	4	24.3
Other	0	-
Allen	0	6.7
White	0	5.6
Black	0	10.8
Other	0	-
Ascension	5	6.9
White	2	4.4
Black	3	13.6
Other	0	-
Assumption	2	13.6
White	2	15.4
Black	0	11.3
Other	0	-
Avoyelles	3	6.3
White	2	5.5
Black	1	7.9
Other	0	-
Beauregard	3	6.2
White	3	5.5
Black	0	10.7
Other	0	-
Bienville	2	10.4
White	1	7.5
Black	1	13.4
Other	0	-
Bossier	19	8.1
White	8	5.6
Black	10	13.9
Other	1	13.6
Caddo	47	11.4
White	7	4.9
Black	40	17.0
Other	0	-
Calcasieu	26	9.1
White	16	6.7
Black	10	15.0
Other	0	-
Caldwell	2	14.6
White	2	12.2
Black	0	24.2
Other	0	-



<i>Infant Mortality by Parish and Race of Mother Louisiana, 1993-1997</i>		
<i>Parish / Race</i>	<i>1997 Number of Infant Deaths</i>	<i>1993-1997 Infant Mortality Rate*</i>
Cameron	0	13.1
White	0	14.0
Black	0	-
Other	0	-
Catahoula	4	5.7
White	3	6.6
Black	1	4.0
Other	0	-
Claiborne	4	10.9
White	1	5.0
Black	3	15.1
Other	0	-
Concordia	4	11.3
White	2	8.9
Black	2	13.7
Other	0	-
DeSoto	2	12.1
White	0	7.0
Black	2	16.4
Other	0	-
E. Baton Rouge	69	11.7
White	10	5.8
Black	59	18.1
Other	0	6.5
E. Carroll	1	8.0
White	0	-
Black	1	10.4
Other	0	-
E. Feliciana	2	12.5
White	1	10.8
Black	1	14.4
Other	0	-
Evangeline	6	8.8
White	3	6.7
Black	3	12.3
Other	0	-
Franklin	2	10.0
White	0	3.6
Black	2	17.4
Other	0	-
Grant	2	9.1
White	1	6.3
Black	1	24.0
Other	0	-
Iberia	15	10.3
White	7	6.9
Black	8	14.1
Other	0	19.1



<i>Infant Mortality by Parish and Race of Mother Louisiana, 1993-1997</i>		
<i>Parish / Race</i>	<i>1997 Number of Infant Deaths</i>	<i>1993-1997 Infant Mortality Rate*</i>
Iberville	5	10.9
White	2	5.9
Black	3	14.7
Other	0	-
Jackson	0	7.8
White	0	4.5
Black	0	14.0
Other	0	-
Jefferson	52	8.0
White	32	6.6
Black	18	12.2
Other	2	1.7
Jefferson Davis	5	7.2
White	1	4.7
Black	4	15.6
Other	0	-
Lafayette	25	8.6
White	14	5.7
Black	11	15.0
Other	0	-
Lafourche	10	8.1
White	8	6.3
Black	2	15.8
Other	0	-
LaSalle	0	9.8
White	0	11.2
Black	0	-
Other	0	-
Lincoln	4	13.0
White	1	8.5
Black	3	17.4
Other	0	-
Livingston	8	9.6
White	6	7.8
Black	2	32.1
Other	0	-
Madison	3	14.6
White	1	9.3
Black	2	16.5
Other	0	-
Morehouse	5	17.6
White	1	11.2
Black	4	22.7
Other	0	-
Natchitoches	5	11.3
White	2	5.9
Black	3	16.4
Other	0	-



<i>Infant Mortality by Parish and Race of Mother Louisiana, 1993-1997</i>		
<i>Parish / Race</i>	<i>1997 Number of Infant Deaths</i>	<i>1993-1997 Infant Mortality Rate*</i>
Orleans	95	11.4
White	18	7.3
Black	77	12.7
Other	0	2.3
Ouachita	18	10.4
White	5	6.1
Black	13	15.6
Other	0	-
Plaquemines	5	7.8
White	5	8.3
Black	0	6.6
Other	0	9.3
Pointe Coupee	2	8.6
White	1	11.4
Black	1	5.8
Other	0	-
Rapides	18	11.5
White	10	8.6
Black	7	15.6
Other	1	15.6
Red River	0	9.7
White	0	2.8
Black	0	16.8
Other	0	-
Richland	2	14.0
White	1	15.0
Black	1	13.1
Other	0	-
Sabine	6	10.7
White	1	7.8
Black	5	20.1
Other	0	-
St. Bernard	3	6.3
White	2	5.6
Black	1	15.8
Other	0	-
St. Charles	4	6.5
White	3	4.9
Black	1	10.1
Other	0	-
St. Helena	2	14.2
White	1	7.5
Black	1	20.5
Other	0	-
St. James	3	11.6
White	2	12.7
Black	1	10.8
Other	0	-



<i>Infant Mortality by Parish and Race of Mother Louisiana, 1993-1997</i>		
<i>Parish / Race</i>	<i>1997 Number of Infant Deaths</i>	<i>1993-1997 Infant Mortality Rate*</i>
St. John	8	9.4
White	2	6.0
Black	6	13.3
Other	0	-
St. Landry	15	11.4
White	7	8.1
Black	8	14.8
Other	0	-
St. Martin	3	9.4
White	2	8.1
Black	1	11.5
Other	0	-
St. Mary	5	9.9
White	2	6.0
Black	3	16.5
Other	0	-
St. Tammany	14	6.7
White	11	5.7
Black	3	13.4
Other	0	-
Tangipahoa	14	9.6
White	6	6.2
Black	8	14.5
Other	0	-
Tensas	1	12.7
White	0	-
Black	1	20.6
Other	0	-
Terrebonne	18	10.1
White	9	8.4
Black	8	16.8
Other	1	5.1
Union	6	13.7
White	2	8.4
Black	4	23.5
Other	0	-
Vermilion	7	9.0
White	3	6.0
Black	4	20.0
Other	0	-
Vernon	7	7.9
White	7	6.7
Black	0	13.7
Other	0	-
Washington	5	12.1
White	2	8.7
Black	3	17.6
Other	0	-



Infant Mortality by Parish and Race of Mother Louisiana, 1993-1997		
Parish / Race	1997 Number of Infant Deaths	1993-1997 Infant Mortality Rate*
Webster	5	8.1
White	2	5.8
Black	3	11.1
Other	0	-
W. Baton Rouge	4	10.5
White	1	5.2
Black	3	17.3
Other	0	-
W. Carroll	0	6.7
White	0	9.0
Black	0	-
Other	0	-
W. Feliciana	2	13.4
White	0	3.3
Black	2	24.3
Other	0	-
Winn	1	12.4
White	0	10.1
Black	1	16.0
Other	0	-

*Rate per 1000 live births. Very small numbers of deaths, such as those seen for 1997 infant mortality, result in rates that are likely to fluctuate from year to year. To create rates that are more stable, 1993-97 Five-Year Infant Mortality rates have been calculated.
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Injury Deaths

Injuries are a substantial and preventable public health problem and account for approximately 8% of deaths in Louisiana. In 1993, injuries accounted for 57% of all deaths among persons aged 1-34 and 78% of all deaths among persons 15-24 years. Many injury epidemiology and injury control programs depend on injury mortality and morbidity data for program planning and evaluation.

When referring to injury deaths, the term "injury" includes (a) unintentional injuries, suicides, and homicides and (b) injuries from undetermined intent, legal intervention (i.e. law enforcement), and operations of war. The term does not include adverse effects of either medical care or therapeutic use of drugs.¹⁵

Number and Rate of Injury Deaths by Cause and Intent of Injury
Louisiana, 1997
N=3118

Cause	Intent											
	Unintentional		Suicide		Homicide		Undetermined		Other		Total	
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cut/pierce	2	0.05	3	0.1	76	1.7	0	0.00	0	0.00	81	1.9
Drowning/submersion	126	2.9	12	0.3	1	0.02	5	0.1	---	---	144	3.3
Fall	220	5.1	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.05	---	---	222	5.1
Fire/Burn	87	2.0	3	0.1	4	0.1	1	0.02	---	---	95	2.2
Firearm	38	0.9	386	8.9	534	12.3	8	0.2	2	0.05	968	22.2
Machinery	28	0.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	28	0.6
Motor-vehicle, Traffic	903	20.8	2	0.05	---	---	0	0.00	---	---	905	20.8
Pedal Cyclist, other**	2	0.05	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	0.05
Pedestrian, other	16	0.4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	16	0.4
Transport, other	36	0.8	0	0.00	---	---	0	0.00	---	---	36	0.8
Natural, environmental	27	0.6	0	0.00	---	---	0	0.00	---	---	27	0.6
Overexertion	0	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0	0.00
Poisoning	125	2.9	66	1.5	0	0.00	40	0.9	0	0.00	231	5.3
Struck by, against	23	0.5	---	---	7	0.2	---	---	0	0.00	30	0.7
Suffocation	88	2.0	51	1.2	17	0.4	4	0.1	---	---	160	3.7
Other specified, classifiable	36	0.8	0	0.00	7	0.2	0	0.00	1	0.02	44	1.0
Other specified, not elsewhere classifiable	3	0.1	2	0.05	24	0.6	2	0.05	0	0.00	31	0.7
Unspecified	66	1.5	2	0.05	26	0.6	4	0.1	0	0.00	98	2.3
Total	1826	42.0	527	12.1	696	16.0	66	1.5	3	0.1	3118	71.6

Source: LA Office of Public Health, Vital Statistics Electronic Files

Note: "-" Indicates category not specified by International Classification of Diseases Coding System

*Rate per 100,000 Residents; Based on 1997 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate

** Other includes railway and nontraffic crashes

¹⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Recommended Framework for Presenting Injury Mortality Data." *MMWR* (46:RR-14) 1997.